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LD121308 [Editorial Report]

Hijacked Kuwaiti Airliner

The hijackers threatened 12 April to turn the Boeing 747 into a "coffin" if it is not refueled, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Negotiations between PLO representatives and the hijackers were continuing, the radio said. In Kuwait, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat disclosed that the hijackers have demanded to fly to Algeria, adding that arrangements are being made toward this end, KUNA reported.

'Arafat indicated that the negotiations with the hijackers are concerned with the release of hostages, and he said the PLO has told the hijackers that it will stop the talks if further harm is done to the passengers.

A statement issued by the hijackers early on 12 April said they have named the Kuwaiti airliner "the plane of the supreme sacrifice," adding that they were wearing shrouds in preparation for "martyrdom," AFP noted. They also threatened "more painful measures" against the passengers if their demands are not met, according to the Voice of Lebanon. One of the passengers had earlier told Larnaca Airport control tower that the hijackers will kill all the passengers if the plane is not refuelled, Nicosia radio reported.

In Kuwait, Foreign Minister Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah reacted to the killing of a second Kuwaiti by reaffirming that his country will not submit to blackmail and terrorism, KUNA reported.

Alluding to the threat to kill Al-Sabah family members, he stressed that the Kuwaiti authorities make no distinction between one citizen and another, as "we are all one family."

The man killed by the hijackers 11 April was a 20-year-old worker in Kuwait's Fire Brigade, according to KUNA. The Kuwaiti papers AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM and AL-SIYASAH accused Iran of complicity in the hijacking, the agency noted.

In Lebanon, the "Oppressed of the Earth" organization issued a statement in which it threatened to kill kidnapped U.S. Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins if any attempt is made to storm the plane, AFP reported. The statement was not accompanied by any photograph or other proof that its authors are holding Higgins.

Israel

Eight inhabitants of the territories were deported to Lebanon 11 April, Jerusalem radio announced, adding that five of the deportees are from Gaza and three others from Judaea and Samaria. The IDF spokesman said that all eight are "senior activists in the terrorist organizations and have carried out acts of incitement and subversion," the radio added.

The five from Gaza were active in radical Muslim organizations, IDF radio noted, and they include the leader of the Gaza Strip Islamic Jihad. The eight deportees were received in Lebanon by the PSP's branch in Rashayya, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

Israel's coordinator of activities in the territories, Shmu'el Goren, subsequently warned that Israel will not hesitate to deport more Palestinian agitators if necessary, according to Jerusalem radio. The wave of deportations may only be beginning, the radio added, noting that the IDF has issued deportation orders against 12 other Arabs, including 6 from the village of Bayta.

Commenting on the deportations in remarks cited by the radio, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated that deporting agitators is an effective form of punishment, though he stressed that it should "not be used too much." Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said people around the world may not like the deportations, but Israelis have to worry about their security, IDF radio noted.

The casualty toll rose again in the territories when two Arabs were killed and two others wounded in an 11 April clash between rioters and the IDF near Janin, according to Jerusalem radio. One IDF soldier was wounded. Three Arabs were also wounded by IDF gunfire in Nabulus. On the number of Palestinians in custody, the radio cited a disclosure by the IDF deputy chief of staff that 4,800 inhabitants of the territories have been detained since the start of the riots, 900 of them under administrative detention orders.

PLO Affairs

Western media reports that the USSR has asked the PLO to recognize Israel are an "interpretation" of TASS reportage on the Soviet-PLO talks in Moscow, Yasir 'Arafat told Radio Monte Carlo. The importance of the new Soviet stand is its emphasis on basing an international conference on UN Resolution 242 and its call for recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, he added.

On relations with the Arab states, 'Arafat said he intends to visit Jordan as soon as possible, and he affirmed his "deep thanks for the splendid Syrian position" announced after the talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and Secretary of State George Shultz. A TASS commentary said 'Arafat's talks in Moscow were held against a backdrop of "positive shifts" in the Arab region, particularly the change in relations between the PLO and Syria.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces launched a new offensive in the Panjwin area the night of 11 April, inflicting over 2,000 casualties and capturing 235 Iraqi soldiers, IRNA announced. Iranian troops reportedly captured six strategic heights in the new operation, codenamed Bayt al-Moqaddas-5. The agency also reported an Iranian air strike on the headquarters of the Iraqi I Army Corps in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province the morning of 12 April. An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA maintained that Iraqi forces repulsed the Iranian attack in the Panjwin area, killing or wounding over 2,000 Iranians.

Iraq continued its missile bombardment 12 April, announcing over Voice of the Masses radio that one "Al-Husayn" missile was launched at Tehran and two at Tabriz. IRNA said the attacks caused civilian casualties, stating that one of the missiles hit a leprosarium in Tabriz. Iran had fired two missiles at "military centers" in Baghdad the previous afternoon, according to an IRGC statement carried by Tehran radio.

The statement said this was in response to renewed Iraqi missile attacks on Iran earlier the same day. IRNA stated that 20 people were killed in the three Iraqi missile attacks 11 April, while 5 villagers were killed and 7 wounded in an Iraqi air attack near Orumiyeh.

In further remarks on Iran's missile power, Iranian Defense Minister Hoseyn Jalali asserted that Iran's mass production of two types of long range missiles has made it capable of turning Baghdad into an "inferno" if Iraq persists in attacking Iranian cities, IRNA reported. According to Jalali, 80 percent of missiles fired at Baghdad were manufactured by Iran's Defense Industries Organization.

Iran

Gulf Diplomacy—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati held talks with the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs in Abu Dhabi 11 April, IRNA disclosed, noting that they discussed international issues and regional developments.

Velayati briefed the UAE official on Iraq's chemical bombing of Halabjah and called on the UAE to broaden cooperation with Iran to defuse tension in the region. The foreign minister had earlier met with Omani officials in Muscat, according to Muscat radio, which noted that the issues discussed included Gulf developments and ways to consolidate bilateral relations.

Khomeyni on Pilgrimage—Iran will send 150,000 pilgrims on the hajj this year and they will do their duty of "disowning the infidels, the United States, and Israel," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni announced in remarks reported by Tehran radio.

Speaking to Pilgrim Supervisor Mehdi Karrubi and other hajj officials, Khomeyni added that Iranian pilgrims cannot participate in the hajj without demonstrating against "world arrogance," because "disowning the infidels is one of the political duties of pilgrims." The Al-Sa'ud family should realize that if they act "otherwise," they will face "all the world's Muslims," Khomeyni stressed.

Majlis Elections—The results for most Majlis seats were decided in the first round, though a second round of voting will be required in up to 80 seats, Tehran radio reported. Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani gained the highest number of votes in Tehran, followed by Mehdi Karrubi.

Afghanistan

Thirty Soviet military advisors and soldiers were killed and the Defense Ministry building heavily damaged when mujahidin struck it with six missiles on 31 March and 2 April, according to "eyewitnesses" cited by IRNA.

The "rebel" information service AAP, cited by Yugoslavia's TANJUG, claimed that there was an assassination attempt on Interior Minister Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, a member of the Khalqi faction, in Kabul 4 April. The "rebel sources" linked the planting of the bomb in the minister's car to "strife" between the PDPA's Parchami and Khalqi factions. According to AFP, "rebels" knocked out Qandahar's radio and television stations with two rockets "late last month." The report, which cited Western diplomats, also referred to Parchami and Khalqi factional fighting in the city.

TASS reported that the An-26 plane downed during a flight from Meymaneh to Mazar-e Sharif 10 April was hit by a U.S.-made Stinger anti-aircraft missile.

President Najibullah cabled condolences to Pakistani President Ziaul Haq on the ammunition dump explosion, Kabul radio reported.

Jordan, Kuwait Explosions

Black September claimed responsibility for a bomb that exploded at a government department 9 April, according to a Radio Monte Carlo report from Beirut. The Palestinian organization warned that it will continue to strike at King Husayn's "interests" until he stops "conspiring against the Palestinian revolution," the radio added. According to Amman radio, only two people were injured in the explosion at the "crowded" building.

A car bomb exploded in front of the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry, causing "only slight" damage, AL-ANBA' reported 10 April.

ICO Meeting

The ICO Presidium concluded its meeting in Kuwait 11 April and issued a final statement, KUNA reported. The statement called for the full implementation of international agremments on confronting hijacking. Concerning Afghanistan, the ICO Presidium welcomed the Soviet statement on the withdrawal of its troops and the agreement reached in Geneva. Addressing the Palestinian situation, it also called on the United States to cancel its decision to close the PLO's UN observer mission.

The ICO Presidium "hailed" the Palestinian "uprising" and "condemned" the "savage" Israeli campaign against the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. It called for the "complete" withdrawal of Israeli forces from "all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories," including Jerusalem. According to Kuwait radio, Niger's Prime Minister Hamid Algabid was elected new ICO secretary general.

Tunisia

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali abolished the post of minister of national defense and assumed the duties himself as president and commander in chief of the armed forces, Tunis radio reported. He appointed Abdallah Kalal secretary general of the National Defense Ministry. The "minor" government reshuffle also included the following appointments: Slaheddine Bali, minister of state in charge of justice; Hedi Khelil, national education minister; and Abdesslem M'seddi, higher education and scientific research minister.

Sudan

Omdurman National Unity radio cited a press report that Ethiopia offered to enter "urgent secret negotiations" with Sudan on eliminating the Eritrean presence in Sudan in return for eliminating the presence of John Garang's SPLA from Ethiopia.

According to AL-USBU', an International Red Cross official in eastern Sudan was arrested for spying for the SPLA, SUNA reported.

Islamic Affairs

Further on ICO Conference Session in Kuwait

Presidium Meeting Begins 2d Day

LD111748 Kuwait KUNA in English 1657 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 11 (KUNA)—Islamic leaders participating in the meetings of the [word indistinct] of the Fifth Islamic Conference went into their second and final session Monday, under the chairmanship of H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

During their behind closed doors meeting, the ICO conferees will discuss the meeting's communique which will include 10 resolutions and recommendations endorsed at the Fifth Islamic Summit held in Kuwait in January of last year.

Earlier, delegation heads wound up their first session which encompassed exchange of views on issues related to the Islamic world.

It was reported here that Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir will hold a press conference immediately after the final session is concluded to announce the final communique of the meetings.

The communique is expected to include the outcome of discussions of various issues, topped by the Iraq-Iran war, well into its eighth year, the raging Palestinian uprising and the Afghan problem, in addition to other matters of Islamic interest.

Amir's Speech Concludes Meeting

LD111859 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The Presidium of the office of the fifth Islamic summit and the heads of the permanent committees held a final working session at the Palace of Conferences today at 1845 under the chairmanship of his highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, chairman of the fifth Islamic summit. The session began with a recitation from the Koran. His highness the amir then made the following concluding speech:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful, and the compassionate. Praise be to God, and prayers and peace be upon the messenger of God, his family and companions, and all those who follow his guidelines. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

We now come to the conclusion of the meeting of the Presidium of the Office of the fifty ICO summit members and the heads of its permanent committees—a meeting we began yesterday. It is a meeting that cannot be measured by the number of hours we worked together, but by the depth of feeling we exchanged and the extent of the understanding expressed by the discussions. It can also be measured by the feeling in each of us of more responsibility, and our desire to follow up our achievement, despite the obstacles from which no reform or reformists' path is free.

We were together in our feeling of pain; we were together in our desire to work; and we were together in our confidence in our hopes. [passage omitted] We were with the innocents who are hostages on the airliner; we were with the mujahidin in Palestine and the victims in Islamabad; we were with the past—where our roots are; we were with the present—where our responsibilities lie; we were with the future—where our expectations are.

Brothers, thank you. I thank the heads of the Islamic states and the representatives of the heads of Islamic states. You have expressed comprehensively the issues of the Islamic world and have detailed the coordination of activities of the ICO organs. You were at the level of responsibility, rising from the horizon of resolutions to the horizon of implementation—God willing.

In your name and in the name of the organization I would like to thank brother Sharifuddin Pirzada, the organization's secretary general. [passage omitted] I wish him success in his future responsibilities and hope that he will continue to give to his native Pakistan as he gave to his greater homeland—the Islamic world. In the name of the organization I would like to congratulate brother Hamid Algabid [prime minister of Niger], the new secretary general of the organization. [passage omitted]

Your presence here was a source of happiness and pleasure; your words were a source of encouragement to continue the march and a help in tackling our future responsibilities. I would like you to take back to your people the greetings, amity, and appreciation from me and from Kuwait. I pray to God to make our joint efforts open the door of everything good and close the door of everything evil. [passage omitted] Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [applause] [end recording]

Appeal on Hijacking Issued

LD112132 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2014 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Apr (KUNA)—The heads and representatives of the states participating in the meeting of the Presidium of the Office of the fifth Islamic summit and the heads of the permanent committees have appealed to the international community and international organizations to shoulder their responsibilities with regard to confronting the hijacking of the "Al- Jabiriyah" airliner which is now at Larnaca airport in Cyprus.

This appeal came in a proposal put forward by Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom at the final session. The proposal was unanimously approved. The appeal was read by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin at the press conference he held here tonight.

The participants in the meeting expressed their support for and solidarity with Kuwait regarding the hijacking of the airliner and the suffering being endured by its innocent passengers at the hands of the terrorists—killing, and continuous torture over the past 7 days. The heads and representatives of the states condemned this ugly crime, which contravenes all Islamic values and principles as well as international law and resolutions.

They appealed to the international community and international organizations to shoulder their joint international responsibilities with regard to this dangerous terrorist act and stand by Kuwait at this time when innocents are being attacked. They urge a speedy international effort to help end this incident and safeguard the lives of these passengers.

'Arafat Speaks

LD112226 Kuwait KUNA in English 2128 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 12 (KUNA)—The ongoing uprising in occupied Palestine will continue until the Palestinian people achieve their right to self-determination, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat Monday vowed as he praised the role of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, who is also chairman of the Fifth Islamic Conference, in supporting the upheaval.

Speaking at the final session of the meetings of the bureau of the Fifth OIC and chairmen of the standing committees, which concluded here last night 'Arafat said that the upheaval will continue until the Palestinian independent state is established under leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The Palestinian leader stressed in the meantime that his organization will do all it can to resolve the hijacking crisis of the Kuwaiti airliner Al-Jabiriyah which is still grounded on the tarmac of Larnaca airport.

He pointed out that the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war is not only a waste of the two warring parties human and material resources but also of the whole Islamic world.

He said flames of the war are extending to the region's neighbouring states as a result of not listening to peace calls and resolutions of the international community.

Report on Final Statement

LD120303 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2057 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Apr (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin has declared that the heads of state and the representatives of heads of state participating in the meeting of the Presidium of the Office of the fifth Islamic summit and the heads of the permanent committees have all condemned the criminal hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner. They have also expressed their total solidarity with Kuwait and their support for its principled stand of refusing to submit to the blackmail and pressure of the hijackers.

The meeting saluted the heroic national uprising of the Palestinian Arab people against Israeli occupation and in defense of their firm national rights. The meeting expressed profound anxiety over the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and expressed support for UN Security Council Resolution No. 598. The participants reaffirmed the need to immediately halt all military operations as well as for the opposing forces to withdraw to the internationally-recognized borders and to exchange POW's. The meeting also condemned the recent threats by Israel against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and declared its full solidarity with and support for the kingdom in confronting such aggressive threats.

Here follows the text of the final statement of the meeting of the Presidium of the Office of the fifth Islamic summit conference and of the heads of the ICO permanent committees:

1. In response to a kind invitation by his highness the amir of Kuwait, chairman of the fifth Islamic summit conference, the members of the Presidium committees held a meeting in the city of Kuwait on 10-11 April 1988.

2. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of his highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, amir of Kuwait and chairman of the fifth Islamic summit conference.

3. The following heads of state and government representatives took part in the conference:

1. His Excellency General Muhammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

2. His Excellency President Kenan Evren, president of the Republic of Turkey.

3. His Excellency President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, president of the Republic Maldives.

4. His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

5. His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of Kuwait.

6. His Excellency Dr Azzedine Laraki, prime minister of the Kingdom of Morocco.

7. His Excellency Ibrahima Fall, foreign minister of the Republic of Senegal.

8. His Excellency Martin Bongo, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation in Gabon.

His Excellency Shariffudin Pirzada, ICO secretary general, also participated in the meeting.

4. His highness the amir of Kuwait delivered an opening speech in which he welcomed the heads of state and government and the leaders of the delegations participating in the meeting. He thanked them for responding to his invitation to participate in this meeting which is without precedent in the framework of this organization, aiming at improving ties and intensifying consultations between the Islamic states.

In the course of his reference to the Palestinian question and the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories his highness said that the question of Palestine is an ongoing responsibility. He said the uprising is a clear embodiment of the insistence of the Palestinian people to regain their rights—which cannot be managed by others on behalf of the Palestinian people—including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their land under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative—the PLO.

Referring to the Iraq-Iran conflict, his highness called the sons of Islam to the table of reconciliation and negotiation. He said that although Iran had not agreed to receive a delegation consisting of his excellency the brother secretary general of the ICO and a Kuwaiti official—who were entursted with the task by the fifth Islamic summit—our hope for the future is greater than our regret for the past and our desire for reconciliation and fraternity is the prime mover of the organization's efforts.

Regarding Afghanistan his highness said Afghanistan has imposed a duty on us with regard to its long struggle for liberation from external influence. He welcomed the declaration by the Soviet Union of its desire to withdraw from Afghanistan. His highness called for more scientific cooperation between the ICO member countries and its organs so that help and assistance can be speedily given to the Sahel region in West Africa.

He also expressed support for the legitimate struggle of the peoples of southern Africa and Namibia to regain their legitimate rights over their land.

In the name of the meeting and in the name of Kuwait and its people, his highness expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy to His Excellency president Ziaul Haq and to the Muslim people of fraternal Pakistan on the explosion which occured near Islamabad and which left a number of dead and injured.

5. The ICO general secretary also delivered a speech in which he expressed gratitude to his highness the amir of Kuwait for his initiative to convene the meeting which has come in time. The general secretary described the the current state of the major issues facing the Islamic nation.

6. His Excellency General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Republic of Pakistan and chairman of the Permanent Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, delivered a speech in response to the opening address of the amir of Kuwait. On behalf of all participating delegations he thanked his highness the amir of Kuwait for his inspiring speech and wise decision to call for the meeting at a serious turning point in the life of the Islamic nation.

7. The meeting then discussed various topics. The participants found that the meeting provided an excellent and soundly timed opportunity to conduct in-depth discussions and consultations regarding the situation in the Islamic world. They also stressed the need for continuing the collective efforts to reinforce Islamic solidarity and also to reinforce cooperation, peace, and security on the international level.

8. The meeting expressed its special appreciation of the sincere efforts of his highness the amir of Kuwait in his capacity as president of the fifth Islamic summit conference in supporting the attempts to reach peaceful solutions to the major problems from which the Islamic world is suffering such as the Iraq-Iran war, the issue of Palestine, the situation in Afghanistan, and the critical situation in Africa.

The meeting also hailed the sincere efforts of His Excellency Sharifuddin Pirzada, general secretary of the ICO, to refinforce Islamic collective action and presenting the views of the Muslim states at various international forums.

9. Within the framework of the collective Islamic rejection of international terroism in all its shapes and forms, the meeting recalled the decision of the fifth Islamic summit in this regard in addition to the other decisions of the Islamic Conference in past years against the hijacking of aircraft with a view to strengthening cooperation between the member states and the international community in combating this serious phenomenon.

The meeting called on the ICO member states and the international community to fully implement the international agreements to confront the crime of hijacking. And in this respect the meeting condemned the criminal

hijacking of the Kuwaiti passenger plane. The meeting also expressed its full solidarity with Kuwait and its support of Kuwait's principled stand which rejects submission to the blackmail and pressure of the hijackers.

The meeting adopted the following stands with regard to the main issues concerning the Muslim world:

The Political Issues

1. The meeting hailed the heroic nationalist uprising of the Palestinian Arab people against the Israeli occupation in defense of their inalienable national rights.

The meeting condemned the savage Israeli campaign of killings, beatings, arrests, mass deportation, curfews, and the imposition of economic pressures on the Palestinian people. It also called for the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including the holy city of Jerusalem, and the recovery by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights to their return, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state in Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

2. The meeting reaffirmed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and is fully entitled to represent them and to participate on their behalf, independently, and on an equal footing in all conferences and activities relating to the Palestinian question.

In this respect, the conference called for the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices with a view to achieving a peaceful, comprehensive, and just solution of the problem.

3. The meeting condemned the illegal occupation of the Arab Golan heights and Lebanese territory by the Zionist entity, and for its brutal practices which include terrorism and forced displacement with the aim of annexing those lands.

4. The meeting called on the United States to cancel its decision to close the office of the PLO mission, in its capacity as observer to the United Nations in New York, the PLO information office in Washington.

The meeting expressed its support for the efforts made by the UN secretary general to get the United States to abide by the headquarters agreement signed between the United Nations and the United States with a view to halting the closure of the PLO office in New York.

5. During a review of the situation in Afghanistan the meeting praised the heroic struggle of the people of Afghanistan for the liberation of their homeland and for the restoration of its Islamic, independent, and nonaligned position.

Welcoming the Soviet statement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the agreement which was reached in Geneva concerning the situation in Afghanistan, the meeting expressed hope in the speedy achievement of a comprehensive political solution including the formation a provisional government on a broad basis so that the Afghan refugees can return to their homes in complete safety and dignity and so that the Afghan people can exercise their right to choose their economic and political system away from foreign interference.

The meeting affirmed the need to rebuild the economic structure in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of foreign troops, with the help of Islamic states and Islamic financial organizations such as the Islamic Development Bank.

6. The meeting expressed deep concern over the continuation of the Iranian-Iraqi war and also expressed its support for UN Security Council Resolution No. 598 of 20 July 1987 concerning the Iranian-Iraqi war and expressed support for the efforts of the UN secretary general to achieve full implementation of the resolution.

The meeting reaffirmed the need to immediately halt all military operations and to withdraw forces to borders which are recognized internationally and to exchange prisoners of war, in addition to the other elements which are contained in Resolution No 598 and to solve all outstanding problems between the two neighboring countries by peaceful means.

7. The meeting condemned the regime in Pretoria for adopting the hated policies of racial discrimination and for its unlawful occupation of Namibia. The meeting condemned the Pretoria regime also for the policy of disturbing the stability of the frontline states.

The meeting reaffirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa and Namibia to achieve majority rule and independence. The meeting called for imposing compulsory comprehensive sanctions against the racial minority regime according to Article 17 of the UN Charter.

8. The meeting lauded the recommendations issued by the Jerusalem Committee at its last meeting held in Ifran, Morocco, under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II, and praised the efforts being made by the Jerusalem Committee under the chairmanship of his majesty in supporting the Palestinian question and the question of holy Jerusalem.

9. The meeting condemned Israel's threats to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and declared its total solidarity with and support for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in confronting such hostile threats.

10. The meeting reviewed the sorrowful and serious events which led to the death of a considerable number of Iranian pilgrims in the holy city of Mecca during the 1987 pilgrimage. The meeting expressed its regret for such incidents and reaffirmed its deep understanding of and support for the measures which Saudi Arabia took to safeguard the sanctity of the holy places and protect the pilgrims.

11. While the meeting reaffirms the determination of the member states to strengthen their security through cooperation and solidarity, it calls on the secretary general to appoint at the earliest opportunity a team of five prominent figures to study the measures aimed at building confidence and bolstering security in accordance with the decisions taken by the 17th conference of Islamic foreign ministers in this regard.

12. The meeting reviewed the position of the Islamic communities in the nonmember countries and reaffirmed its concern that these communities are deprived of their religious and cultural rights as well as their fundamental rights and liberties.

The meeting asked that the position of such communities should be monitored closely and this issue should be followed up continuously. In this regard the meeting reaffirmed the resolution issued by the 17th Islamic foreign ministers' conference regarding the deteriorating situation of the Muslim Turkish minority in Bulgaria.

Economic Issues

13. At the meeting appreciation was expressed for the level of progress which has been achieved in reinforcing economic and commerical cooperation between the Islamic countries and lauded the efforts of the Permanent Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation which is chaired by His Excellency President Kenan Evren, president of the Turkish Republic. Then the meeting stressed the need for closer cooperation between the member states in the fields specified in the plan of action. The meeting also appealed to the member states to take an effective interest in the work of the permanent committee.

Scientific and Technological Cooperation

14. The meeting expressed its satisfaction with the progress which has been achieved in the field of scientific and technological cooperation between the Islamic countries under the care of the Permanent Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation which is chaired by His Excellency President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Republic of Pakistan, and stressed that scientific and technological progress is an essential prerequisite for economic progress and development.

Information and Cultural Issues

15. The meeting expressed its satisfaction with the report of the Permanent Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs which is chaired by His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal, and the progress accomplished in these fields under the care of the committee. The meeting also pointed out the need for practical measures for drawing up the project of the cultural and social strategy proposed by the chairman of the committee during the fifth Islamic summit conference, and welcomed the offer of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the first meeting of the ICO information ministers in the month of Safar 1408 H.

The meeting praised the resolutions of the 17th Islamic foreign ministers' conference held in Amman in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the period 3-7 Sha'ban 1408 H. corresponding to 21-25 March 1988, with regard to the various issues of vital importance to the Islamic world, and appealed to the member states to carry them out fully.

President Kenan Evren, president of the Turkish Republic, in the name of all the delegations, expressed gratitude to his highness the amir of Kuwait for his soundly timed initiative to convene the meeting at the office of the fifth Islamic summit conference.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat on Hijacked Plane, Moscow Talks

JN112119 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2016 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by George Nawfal on 11 April, carried within the "Panorama" program—place not given; recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] Good evening, Abu 'Ammar.

['Arafat] Good evening.

[Nawfal] The first question is on the latest news received from the occupied territories. Israel today deported eight Palestinians to southern Lebanon.

['Arafat] My information says it has decided to deport others.

[Nawfal] Yes, there is a decision that will apparently be implemented immediately.

['Arafat] Therefore, I have just sent an urgent cable to our UN mission to submit an urgent complaint and call for swift movement by the secretary general and the Security Council because this is a clear violation of two resolutions issued in this regard. They are Resolutions 607 and 608.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, the question is about the latest developments regarding the airliner. We know you are continuously following up what is going on in Larnaca. Is there anything new you can tell us? How do you expect this tragedy to end?

['Arafat] Regrettably, despite all efforts so far exerted, we have not managed to reach the positive result we want to end this tragedy which involves 51 passengers apart from the crew members. These are innocent people. According to international law and from humanitarian and religious aspects, it is inadmissible to harm them.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, we received reports citing you as saying that the hijackers are receiving information from outside Larnaca and not from Lebanon.

['Arafat] That is certain. I do not want to talk now because I do not want to complicate things. Proceeding from my responsibility as a deputy chairman of the Islamic Conference and as an active Arab League member and in view of my relationship with the brothers in Kuwait—and this is an important relationship—as well as my old and new relations with my brothers in Lebanon, I am doing my best to reach a quick solution, a humanitarian solution, and a positive solution.

I hope to reach such a thing within the next few hours. I will continue despite the pressures put on a mediator from more than one place. This is my duty and I will continue to perform it, God willing.

[Nawfal] You are disclosing that great pressures are being exerted on the mediator.

['Arafat] Naturally. You cannot imagine that I have been [here] for over 48 hours, with news here and news there, a message from here and a message from there. These are continuing. Nevertheless, I will, God willing, continue this effort which I consider a humanitarian, pan-Arab, and religious duty.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, there has been a clamor in all news media and in the West, too, about what TASS reported after your meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. TASS cited Gorbachev as saying he asked the PLO to recognize the State of Israel. Thus far, TASS has not denied this report.

['Arafat] The first thing is that TASS has not at all carried such a report. TASS is in front of me, George. It is regrettably an interpretation [qira'ah] of the TASS report by a Western agency. Here it is. It says:

As for this issue, [words indistinct] but they are not alone when they defend their just cause. They enjoy a large international support. Here lies the guarantee that the Palestinian people's central issue will be resolved on the basis of self-determination. This is very, very clear. Moreover, a basic point that should be known to those near and far:

The Palestinian people enjoy their right to self-determination in the same amount that is guaranteed to Israel. As for how the Palestinians will exercise this right, it is a matter that concerns them only. The more effective mechanism [preceding word in English] for settlement is the UN-sponsored international conference whose legal basis should be the recognition of Security Council Resolution 242. Here lies the increase, this is the importance of the new Soviet stand.

They do not tell us only; they tell the other superpower [preceding word in English as heard]: the recognition of the national legitimate rights of not the Palestinians, but the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. This is clear.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, it seems the United States is interested in the news carried by TASS or wrongly attributed to TASS?

['Arafat] But the U.S. State Department said a short while ago it welcomes Gorbachev's position and his demand that the PLO recognize the State of Israel. Superpowers do not deal with unfounded news carried from here or there.

Comrade Shevardnadze and Shultz will meet in Geneva on 14 April to sign the Afghan agreement. They will also meet on 21 and 23 April and then they will hold a third meeting next month. They will hold three meetings in less than 1 month. The topics discussed with the Soviet leadership regard the international conference, our viewpoint, the Soviet viewpoint, and the other Arab parties' viewpoints. These are under discussion by the friendly Soviet Union.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, I think you will visit Jordan in 2 days.

['Arafat] I cannot say in 2 days. I welcome every visit to our brothers in Jordan.

[Nawfal] But you will visit Jordan?

['Arafat] I have an invitation from his majesty the king and I welcome this invitation and this visit. I hope circumstances will permit me to pay the visit as soon as possible.

[Nawfal] I insist, because we have received information from Jordan that you will leave for Amman within a few days. We have received information from Jordan about a Jordanian openness regarding the issue of negotiations and the joint delegation?

['Arafat] In fact, I want my kinfolk to hear the warm Soviet words. They said: As we welcome you in the Soviet Union, we see in your person the Palestinian people, who are known for their bravery on many occasions. This people will not despair despite all the difficulties through which they have passed.

They are raising the banner of liberation of their country. Their steadfastness and determintion to continue to struggle to regain their national rights from foreign occupation are continuing. Tens of years of violence and repression could not subdue them.

This arouses our sympathy and admiration and encourages us to continue support without being affected by any transistory considerations. Is there a love greater than this?

[Nawfal] But you did not answer me regarding cooperation with Jordan. Jordan appears to be very open. It said it will leave everything to the PLO if its wants to negotiate and if the PLO wants a joint delegation, Jordan is also ready for that. What do you say and do you believe Jordan's position will facilitate future cooperation between the PLO and Jordan?

['Arafat] In fact, Brother George, I assessed this issue during my stay in the Soviet Union when I heard this from Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and during conversations betewen my brothers and a number of Jordanian officials.

We will continue to consider Jordanian- Palestinian relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples as special and distinguished. This was stressed by the PNC. We are concerned about this and about continuing this positive position by our brothers in Jordan.

On this occasion, I expressed my deep thanks for the splendid Syrian position announced by the official Syrian spokesman following the meeting between President Al-Asad and Shultz.

Al-Asad stressed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the establishment of an independent state, the need for an effective international conference, and an invitation to a joint Arab delegation, including the PLO.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, we note that recently you have not missed any occasion to praise President Hafiz al-Asad. What about efforts to improve relations between you and Damascus?

['Arafat] My meeting with President Al-Asad on the sidelines of the Arab summit conference in Amman in the presence of President Chadli Bendjedid was considered a new page in Palestinian-Syrian relations. Our Algerian brothers are still exerting great efforts.

The Soviet comrades are also exerting such efforts in this regard. A Palestinian-Algerian-Syrian meeting took place and many meetings took place in the seven-member Arab committee for supporting the uprising. The Arab League issued resolutions regarding this support. In addition to this, there are high-level talks. We hope these will produce positive results.

[Nawfal] Thank You, Abu 'Ammar for answering Monte Carlo's questions.

Expects End to 'Ordeal'

LD121041 Kuwait KUNA in English 0944 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 12 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said here he expects that the eight-day ordeal of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner now grounded at Larnaca airport to end Tuesday night.

Replying to a question from KUNA, the PLO chief said the hijackers have demanded to fly to Algeria, and that arrangements are being made to this end.

'Arafat, who was addressing a news conference at the PLO office, declined to elaborate on the negotiations with the hijackers, saying "We are now concerned with the release of the hostages on board the plane."

The PLO leader said he had told the hijackers he would stop negotiations if they hurt the hostages as he does not tolerate any harm done to the passengers.

'Arafat indicated that the proposal to fly to Algeria was aired by the pirates themselves.

Asked if he felt the hijackers' statement issued this morning and threatened to blow up the aircraft if their demand for refuelling the plane was not met has torpedoed efforts to resolve the hijack drama, 'Arafat said "I believe this statement which I have read was part of the undergoing negotiations." 'Arafat said it is likely that one objective of the hijack was distracting attention from the blessed five-month old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation forces.

"This incident is not directed against Kuwait but the entire Arab and Islamic nations," the Palestinian leader went on.

'Arafat praised the outcome of a two-day meeting in Kuwait of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) bureau which concluded last night, saying "It was successful thanks to the responsible and courageous spirit and competent steering of h.h. the amir of Kuwait."

The Palestinian leader pointed out that the bureau took important resolutions regarding the Palestinian uprising, the Iraq-Iran war, Afghanistan and the hijack drama of the Kuwaiti airliner.

Replying to a question, 'Arafat denied that Soviet Communist Party Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev had asked him to recognize Israel during his recent visit to Moscow which he described as "the most successful trips I have ever made as it produced positive results."

He emphasized that the visit "would restore the youth of Palestinian-Soviet relations and I hope influence the course of events in the Middle East."

'Arafat indicated that Gorbachev briefed him on the peace settlement which would be signed in Geneva this week and lead to Soviet troop withdrawal.

Turning to the Palestinian upheaval, he pledged that the wide-spread protests would continue until the Israeli occupier is expelled from Palestinian territory.

Yasir 'Arafat Holds Moscow News Conference

JN102011 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1745 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Brothers, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces held a news conference at the press center of the Soviet Foreign Ministry today.

The conference was attended by correspondents of Arab, world, and Soviet news agencies, newspapers, and magazines. The delegation accompanying the brother commander in chief also attended the conference. The following are lengthy excerpts from this conference:

Question: What are the changes that were introduced to Palestinian-Soviet relations by the current Soviet leadership in light of the detente in Soviet-U.S. relations?

Can we consider the visit of Brother Faruq Qaddumi and Faruq al-Shar' within the seven-member Arab committee's delegation, which has recently visited Moscow, as a sign of improvement in Palestinian-Syrian relations?

In addition to this, what is your interpretation of the state of the paralysis of the Arab street regarding the uprising in the occupied territories?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: First of all, we are undoubtedly proud of the firm and principled relations with our friends in the USSR since this leadership led by Comrade Gorbachev assume power.

I proudly say that the meeting which between me and Comrade Gorbachev in Berlin 2 years ago was an important beginning of further strong Palestinian-Soviet relations.

We also proudly recall the initiative which was made by Comrade Gorbachev during President Mitterrand's visit to Moscow 2 years ago on the importance of holding an international conference to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question that takes into consideration the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state.

After this the old, new Palestinian-Soviet relations were further entrenched. I also had the honor to participate in the celebration on the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution and to hold good and important talks with Comrade Gorbachev and several Soviet officials. This was before the Arab summit which was held in Amman when I left here directly for Amman.

We have been holding continuous contacts with the Soviet leadership, including our continuous consultations, since Shultz has come to the region on a second visit, when he presented his initiative, which in our view as Palestinians aims at containing the Palestinian people's blessed uprising.

We support the international conference. We called for holding an international conference before Shultz did. However, we are looking for an effective and not a ceremonial international conference—a conference, as Comrade Gorbachev said, not to establish the national rights of the Palestinians, but to implement them.

I can say today that we have held important, warm, and positive talks. These talks and the results that they will produce are very important, not only on the Palestinian level, but also on the level of the entire Middle East crisis.

I can describe this visit as one of the most successful visits Yasir 'Arafat paid to Moscow. There is an expression I always like to repeat, namely that I always find the snows of Moscow warm in the fullest sense of the word.

Regarding the meeting between Brother Faruq al-Shar' and Faruq Qaddumi, I undoubtedly say this is part of the new cooperation between us and the brothers in Syria.

Their participation in the seven-member committee stemming from the foreign ministers is a translation of Palestinian-Syrian relations. In accordance with our PNC resolution, we are concerned about correcting these relations and about turning over a new leaf in this regard.

A tripartite Algerian-Palestinian-Syrian meeting was held in Tunis. We should continue these meetings. I also would like to thank the efforts of our Soviet friends in this regard.

Regarding the state of paralysis in the Arab street, keep it between me and you on the Arab level. However, after this long period of the uprising, I believe the Arab world has started to move in the right direction just like the wheel as it gathers momentum which needs time and oil to reach the right speed. However, it seems our peoples were in need of blood. Palestinian blood needed to be shed to have the Arab peoples move.

Question by the BBC: I also want to ask about the more than 100 people who were killed in the occupied territory. What is your opinion on the overall Middle East problem and the occupied territory uprising. Is there a possibility of reaching a solution through negotiations?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: One hundred people were killed in the occupied territory. The Israeli military gang is trying to reduce the number of martyrs. Here on the list are the names of about 278 martyrs in addition to 2 who are not listed.

This means there are 280 martyrs, all of them Palestinian civilians—children, men, and women. Most of them are men and children. More than 300 pregnant women miscarried and 7,000 people were injured—their bones were broken or crushed.

More than 11,000 have been arrested. Over the past 72 hours, the number increased by 2,000. They are now in detention camps. The Israelis speak about Nazi crimes but they themselves are repeating the same crimes with more bestiality.

In exchange for a stone, there are machineguns, gas bombs, some of which are banned internationally. If you want to know you can take a copy of this list of 7,000 injured people. Anybody who wants to take copies is welcome. I am ready to give them to him.

Most of these persons were maimed. I want to give you a picture of the sort of crimes we are facing. Many schools have been transformed into detention camps. Do not forget they have buried people alive. Today I received a note telling me three bodies were discovered in a Gaza Strip garbage dumping area.

I want you to know what is happening against our children, men, and women. What is happening now is real and systematic state terrorism. This is being practiced on instructions from Kissinger who told Shamir during his visit to the United States:

Kill them but not in front of TV cameras. They are now implementing the iron fist policy in the full sense of the word. We are humans. They speak about human rights. As you know there is a big story about human rights but they forget rights of millions of our peoople.

Concerning what you said, so far Shultz has not presented us with anything official. He presented his plan to everyone with the exception of us, the PLO. Therefore, I cannot officially answer questions on a plan that I received unofficially.

The moment Mr Shultz sends me official information, I will answer him. Judging by information I received from various sources, Shultz carries with him a number of noes:

No to Palestinian self-determination, which is a legitimate right of all peoples in the world. Mr Shultz recognized the right of self-determination for the 1,800 people of the Falklands. He now denies more than 5 million Palestinians this right. Now we are 5.5 million.

No to an independent Palestinian state. He forgets his government and administration recognized the State of Israel following Resolution 181, whose first article calls for the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state and whose second article calls for establishing a Jewish state.

Therefore, he recognizes only one article of this resolution. I do not want to speak on the other resolutions—five in all—which the U.S. Administration is rejecting.

No to an independent Palestinian delegation to the international conference and no to an effective international conference, but yes to a ceremonial conference. No to the PLO.

With whom will he speak? With ghosts? With whom will he establish peace? As Palestinians, we support an international conference under a UN umbrella, based on all legitimate UN resolutions, and with the participation of the Security Council's five permanent member-states in addtion to the parties to the Middle East dispute, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people on equal footing with the other parties with the aim of realizing genuine peace. Nobody can jump over the Palestinian rights which are based on international legitimacy.

Question by Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN: I greet you Brother Abu 'Ammar. Has the current Palestinian uprising been included in your talks with Comrade Gorbachev and the other Soviet leaders as a major factor in the Middle East crisis?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: Do you have any doubts about this? This is a major issue.

Kuwaiti AL-WATAN: Is the deal which was concluded yesterday to supply Israel with a very big quantity of U.S. teargas grenades to use against the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories considered the last link in Shultz' tour of the Middle East?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: I know there is a U.S. decision which Shultz expressed with shyness. This decision means Israel has the right to end the uprising without using exposed methods. It is alright to use secret methods. Is not this what Shultz means? Kissinger has said the same thing in this or that way. Kissinger said: Kill them but away from the eyes of the camera.

You know some grenades were found to have been made by the United States in 1988. We have them and we showed them to the press and to the news media at a press conference in Tunis recently.

Question: Mr Chairman, how do you assess the role of the democratic and progressive forces in Israel, their struggle against the barbaric measures that are carried out by the Israeli authorities, and their support for the uprising in the occupied territories?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: First of all, I would like to thank you on this question because I had in mind to speak about this issue. This is because we are satisfied with this strong support by the democratic and progressive forces and the peace groups in Israel which completely reject these barbaric practices carried out by the military gang and strongly denounce the iron fist policy. I am certain that sooner or later, through this cooperation, we will establish peace on the land of peace.

Kuwaiti AL-ANBA': Brother Abu 'Ammar, you have said this visit was one of the most successful visits you have paid to the USSR. Has it produced a new Soviet initiative?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: The visit has produced something more important than the initiative. It has produced a complete understanding.

The AFP: Can you give us an idea about the Palestinian-Jordanian confederation? How do you assess King Husayn's questions to Shultz?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: I would like to remind you of the resolution which was issued in Algiers in 1983, the resolution which was issued in Amman by the PNC, and the resolution which was issued in Algiers again to the effect that the relationship between the Palestinian and Jordanian people is a special relationship that will be based in the future on a confederation between two independent states, the independent Palestinian state and the independent Jordanian state.

We also welcome any Arab state to this confederation. We are advocates of unity. Are you against unity? Regarding the second question my answer is that not even a minute of Shultz' press conference which, as I know, lasted about 40 minutes, was carried on Jordanian television, and this is what I know.

Fatah's Khalaf Cited on 'Arafat Moscow Visit

JN110829 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Apr (WAKH)—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf has described the visit to Moscow by Yasir 'Arafat as one of 'Arafat's most successful visits to the USSR.

In a statement to the Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD published today, Salah Khalaf said Soviet leader Gorbachev pledged during the talks with 'Arafat to adopt the Palestinian stand on the issue of Palestinian representation at an international conference during the U.S.-Soviet summit at the end of next month.

Khalaf said the Shultz initiative has reached an impasse and that there will be no benefit from his return to the region.

Khalaf said 'Arafat's visit to Moscow took place at a very important stage in the history of Palestinian struggle. The Soviets affirmed their full support for the Palestinian uprising because it regained confidence in the Palestinian people's capability to achieve freedom and to practice their right to national self-determination.

Khalaf noted that Gorbachev affirmed to 'Arafat the USSR's adherence to an effective international conference and to PLO representation in this conference in an independent delegation or within a united Arab delegation. He also affirmed that national Palestinian rights should be the basis for any discussion of the Middle East issue, Khalaf added.

Salah Khalaf said that the USSR also spoke about the security of the regional countries, including Israel and the Palestinian state.

Khalaf described as good and principled the statement made by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in the wake of his meeting with the U.S. secretary of state and the four bases defined by Damascus to achieve a just, comprehensive peace, including the participation in an international conference through a united Arab stand. He said this is in harmony with Arab resolutions adopted in the Fes summit and in agreement with the Palestinian viewpoint.

Reports of Request for Israel Recognition Denied

LD111301 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tunis 11 Apr TAP—Mr Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has denied news reports that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev asked the PLO to recognize Israel.

Mr Qaddumi added, in a statement for the press which he made on the fringes of the Arab League's ministerial meeting in Tunis last night, that the Soviet leader, during his talks with the PLO chairman, reiterated the Soviet Union's full support for the Palestinian people's inalienable rights and for the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Mr Faruq Qaddumi, who accompanied Yasir 'Arafat in his recent official trip to Moscow which ended yesterday, stated the Soviet leadership has also reiterated its support for a fully competent international conference which must be held under the aegis of the United Nations with the participation of all permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties concerned with the Middle East conflict on an equal footing, including the PLO.

Mr Qaddumi expressed his happiness at the (?positive) outcome of this visit and described Mr 'Arafat's talks with with the leadership of the Kremlin as constructive, positive, and [word indistinct].

News reports have stated that Gorbachev told 'Arafat, during their meeting on Saturday, that respect for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the recognition of Israel are two fundamental elements for the process of bringing about peace and neighborliness in the Middle East.

Unified National Leadership Issues 'Call No 13'

JN101919 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1636 GMT 10 Apr 88

["Call No 13" issued by the "PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising"—place, date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call. No voice can rise above the voice of the uprising. No voice can rise above the voice of the people of Palestine, the people of the PLO.

Call No 13, the latest call, issued by the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising:

O masses of our struggling people: You have shaken the earth under the feet of the Zionist occupiers. O makers of glory and bright future, you have built the edifice of victory in the monument of the independent Palestinian state. Your fighting hands in Bayta, the heroic Palestinian village, are confronting the occupation, retaliating against the aggression of the barbarous settlers. Your uprising and national unity is directing a strong blow to Shultz and his conspiratorial initiative.

He has returned to his den in frustration without meeting any of our people. You have affirmed that our people reject the U.S. conspiratorial solutions that are hostile to our people and uprising and which are aimed at bypassing the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people and the leader of its struggle.

O masses of the brave uprising, the road of the struggle is the tried and tested road to remove the occupation. Escalate your uprising and proceed forward toward civil disobedience. The various rumors of the occupation aimed at suppressing the uprising, be they related to economy or to fascist means of oppression, have failed in facing your power and struggle.

These rumors will only increase our determination to continue on our path to realize further gains and victories, urging us to escalate our challenges and struggle against the repressive Zionist measures. You have reiterated that the road of struggle and martyrdom is the only road which leads you to your just aims. Assassinating the sons of our struggling peoople will not frighten us. Your uprising has realized many victories which cannot be ignored. We are witnessing a clear upsurge in world support for our people's cause and legitimate rights. We have witnessed a growing unity among our people in the whole of Palestine and the diaspora and a growing support for the PLO and its national program.

You have destroyed the plan of job distribution. You have been able to besiege the Zionist entity, unmask its racist face, and provoke world condemnation and denunciation of its aggressive policy and military machine. You have inflicted on the enemy economic losses amounting to many millions of dollars. Its human losses have increased, thus transforming the occupied homeland from an asset into a bleeding wound in the body of the enemy.

Our uprising is still going on and we must continue to ignite it, as the resultant climate should increase the factors of victory. We must consolidate these factors with tangible measures toward civil disobedience which we have initiated:

The civil administration institutions have begun to crumble. The majority and key employees of these institutions have begun to crumble. The majority and key employees of these institutions have tendered their resignations such as workers in the police, customs, and income tax [departments]. A good number have quit their jobs. An overwhelming majority of our people has refused to pay taxes. There has been a tangible boycott of Zionist goods; our workers have stayed away from Zionist workplaces.

There have been other achievements including an enhancement of cooperation and solidarity among our people, a return to the land and its cultivation. There has also been a widespread increase in household economic activities and in popular committees around the occupied land. Our people have started building a new life system and boosting their national authority.

As we approach the blessed month of Ramadan—the month of sacrifice and cooperation and as we approach the day of the Palestinian prisoner—the vanguard of our people in the front trench facing up to the arbitariness and oppression of occupation, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising stress the following:

Frontal attack against and denunciation of appointed municipal committees that have refused to respond to the national demand to step down. The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising calls upon our people to boycott these committees and not to pay license and professional or any other fees. The appointed committees are hereby warned once and for all to resign forthwith.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising hails our masses and economic institutions that have withheld taxes. It emphasizes the importance of sticking to this

line and in the meantime warns all those who have paid taxes against the consequences of continuing to do so under any pretexts. This applies to large factories and major economic establishments.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising salutes all the workers who have resigned from the civil administration bodies, whether in the police force or the customs and income tax departments. It further calls upon the remainder of the police and income tax employees to quit and follow the example of their fellow workers.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising calls upon our heroic workforce to boycott employment in Israeli settlements on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, given the paralyzing impact this will have on settlement building and their service sector. Furthermore, we call on our workers to form and expand worker committees in their workplaces and neighborhoods to organize themselves and enhance their militant role.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising calls on the national plants and productive establishments to double their turnout and take on additional workers and stresses the necessity of not deducting from wages on comprehensive strike days and not dismissing workers or reducing pay.

The United National Leadership of the Uprising praises the spirit of social and economic cooperation in our people and calls for setting up more popular, neighborhood, and watchman committees to run their affairs and set their roles in the uprising. It further calls on our masses to promote the notion of household economy in terms of tilling the land, keeping poultry, being frugal, and boycotting Zionist goods, particularly during the blessed month of Ramadan.

The Unified Leadership appeals to the Arab masses and the democratic forces wherever they are to escalate their struggle to support the uprising of the Palestinian people. It also hails Algeria's position and its role in holding the Arab summit conference and denounces some parties' attempts to postpone it.

The Unified Leadership urges Syria to quickly redress its relations with the PLO, the leader of our people and their struggle, to confront imperialism and its plans and to serve the Arab liberation struggle. It also appeals to all the sons of our people and their professional sectors such as doctors, engineers, agricultural engineers, lawyers, and teachers to actually participate in the uprising and relieve, support, and serve the sons of our people.

The Unified Leadership would like to warn the sons of our people of the enemy intelligence's attempts to betray our people by distorting the reputation of honorable people and harming their national reputation. Our people should seek accuracy in dealing with the rumors of the enemy and its agents. It also calls on our masses to be on guard against the enemy and its intelligence, which are trying to damage the property of the honorable people.

O our masses, O the makers of the free future, the Unified National Leadership, while marching with you on the path of long and difficult struggle to repulse the occupation and establish an independent Palestinian state, urges the masses of the continued uprising to adhere to the following activities:

1. Challenging the enemy's decision to close shops in the morning. Let us confront this with insisting on opening our shops from 0800-1100. Regarding blessed Ramadan, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising announces that shops will open from 1400-1700.

2. Friday, Sunday, and Tuesday, 12 April, 1988, are days of demonstrations and national activities.

3. Wednesday, 13 April, 1988, is a day of collecting donations and solidarity with the village of Bayta. A 1-minute silence will be observed to honor the martyrs of the uprising at 1000.

4. Thursday and Saturday 14 and 16 April, 1988, will be the days of a general strike in protest of mass arrests and the enemy's repressive and economic measures against our people.

5. Sunday 17 April, 1988, is the day of the Palestinian prisoner. We call for staging a sit-in in the Red Cross and the Red Crescent offices and national institutions in solidarity with our sons in the fascist jails and for staging a hunger strike in these places.

6. Monday, 18 April, 1988, is the day of solidarity with the educational institutions. People will head toward them to show challenge and violate the decision to close them.

7. Tuesday, 19 April, 1988, is the day of solidarity with the families of the martyrs and prisoners. These families will be visited.

8. Wednesday, 20 April, is the day of national unity, the day of Algeria's unionist session, the day of national activities, and the day of national construction and promotion of agriculture and household economic activities.

9. Thursday, 21 April, is the day of the Palestinian Molotov in retaliation for the authorities' encouragement of the herds of settlers to open fire on the Molotov throwers. It is a day of general strike.

O the sons of our great people. Go ahead and cofnront the herds of settlers. Inflict more losses on the enemy. Let us continue to throw Molotovs and stones until we

expel the occupation and achieve victory. Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs. Victory is ours and death is for the Zionist occupiers.

[Signed] The PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in the Occupied Homeland.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Geneva Proximity Talks on Afghanistan Continue

Wakil Interviewed on Talks

LD082040 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1740 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Telephone interview with Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, currently attending the Geneva proximity talks, by unidentified BAKHTAR correspondent speaking from the studios of Radio Afghanistan in Kabul on 8 April—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] We are talking to you from Kabul. I am a correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY. Esteemed Comrade Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, our compatriots impatiently await the results of the Geneva talks. Could you please shed some light on the results of the talks and the documents under consideration, and when the documents will be signed?

[Wakil] As our dear compatriots know, the talks in Geneva on the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan with the objective of restoring peace and ending the war and fratricide are nearly concluded. As a result of long and difficult negotiations, texts of all documents were finalized today, 8 April, in the UN headquarters in Geneva. The talks are continuing on the technical and protocol aspects of the signing of the documents. These documents are due to be signed in Geneva at noon on Thursday, 14 April 1988, corresponding to 26 Hamal 1367.

We regard these agreements, negotiated over nearly 6 years, as a big step toward fulfilling the long-standing desire to end the sufferings of the people of Afghanistan, improve relations between the countries of the region, and establish regional and world peace. During the course of the negotiations, our efforts were consistently directed toward reaching an accord which will eliminate the factors contributing to the continuation of war and bloodshed in the country, end interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and prepare the basis for the return of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union to their peace-loving country.

The documents which were finally agreed upon are: A bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan on bilateral relations, particularly noninterference and nonintervention; declarations of the Soviet Union and the United States of America on international guarantees; a bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan on the voluntary return of Afghan refugees; a document on the reciprocal link of the solution of the situation around Afghanistan, which includes the timetable for the return of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union to their peace-loving country; and also a memorandum of understanding on the control mechanism for the implementation of the bilateral agreements.

We shall act as honestly in the implementation of these documents as we have in the process of finalizing these documents. Another important factor is that these agreements show that one can solve problems through agreements. But the most important aspect of the accords is that while the problems have been solved, the independence, national interests, and territorial integrity of Afghanistan have also been completely safeguarded.

We, like our compatriots, are now impatiently awaiting the signing of the documents by all sides at one table on a specified date. This in itself will be a great achievement for ending war and bloodshed in our country. It also will have (?consequences) for paving the way for national accord in our country. Not only has this agreement an important and fundamental role in halting agression from abroad, and not only does the signing of the documents satisfy the desire of the people of Afghanistan to end the war and bloodshed, it also accelerates our efforts for nationwide peace, national reconciliation, and the process of national reconciliation.

The recent joint statement of esteemed Najibullah, the president of the Afghanistan, and M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, which was announced a few days ago in Tashkent, removed the last obstacles to reaching agreement at Geneva through the creativity and great courage shown by the leaders of the two countries in this statement. It was once again frankly stated to the world—particularly to Pakistan, as the party negotiating with Afghanistan, and to the United States, as a guarantor of these agreements—that the Soviet Union and Afghanistan are sincerely striving and will continue to strive to ensure and safeguard peace in the region, in Afghanistan, and in the world. Thank you for your question.

[Correspondent] Esteemed Comrade 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of Afghanistan, thank you for answering our question despite your many engagements. We wish success to you, to all the comrades of the Afghan delegation, and also for the Geneva talks.

[Wakil] I hope to answer more questions from you on our return to the homeland and shed more light on the Geneva agreements.

[Correspondent] We are also awaiting that day. Thank you once again. That was the telephone interview which was held a few moments ago from the studios of Radio Afghanistan with esteemed 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, on the results of the Geneva talks.

Kabul Cites Cordovez on Accords

LD081707 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Diego Cordovez, personal envoy of the UN secretary general to the Afghan-Pakistani negotiations in Geneva, announced today that these talks are over, and that all documents comprising the Geneva package, the components of a political settlement of the situation regarding Afghanistan, are finalized and ready for signature. He was speaking at a news conference in the Geneva Palace of Nations.

The documents include a bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the principles of mutual relations, including noninterference and the avoidance of interference, a declaration of international guarantees by the Soviet Union and the United States, and a bilateral Afghanistan-Pakistan agreement on the voluntary return of refugees.

Cordovez added that these documents also provide for means to verify both sides' compliance with their commitments. He said that any questions relating to the Government of Afghanistan are matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of Afghanistan, and can be decided only by the people of Afghanistan themselves.

After stating that the Geneva accords offer a historic opportunity to ensure peace and prosperity for the Afghan people and to normalize the situation in the region, Cordovez expressed the hope that all sides concerned, both inside and outside Afghanistan, will support and assist in the implementation of these accords.

Cordovez noted the goodwill and readiness for constructive cooperation demonstrated by the sides concerned which, he said, made it possible to remove difficult obstacles. He said that those people who perhaps do not like the gains of Geneva must come to the conclusion that if they really want peace in their country they should assist in the implementation of the Geneva accords.

Signing of Accords 14 Apr

BK090909 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] The UN intermediary, Mr Diego Cordovez, has announced the documents of accord on Afghanistan are now finalized and open for signature. Addressing a news conference in Geneva today, he said the negotiations had been conducted in good faith and hoped these would be implemented in good faith also.

Mr Cordovez said the documents will be signed not later than Thursday next [14 April]. He said the instruments that have been finalized are a bilateral agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the principles of mutual relations, in particular noninterference and nonintervention. The second instrument is on agreement on the voluntary return of Afghan refugees. The third instrument is (?called) the declaration of international guarantees. The fourth instrument is on agreement on the inter-relationship for settlement of situation relating to Afghanistan.

Mr Cordovez said now a fifth document has been incorporated which has been finalized as a memorandum of understanding on the monitoring arrangement which will provided by the United Nations.

The UN intermediary also read out a statement on the future broad-based government in Afghanistan. In his statement authorized by the interlocutors, Mr Cordovez said throughout the negotiations it has been consistently recognized that the objective of a comprehensive settlement implies a broad-based and immediate participation of all segments of Afghan people and this can be best ensured by a broad-based government in Afghanistan. [sentence as heard]

He said it was equally recognized that any question relating to the government in Afghanistan are matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of Afghanistan and can only be decided by the Afghan people themselves. He said the hope was, therefore, expressed that all elements of Afghan nations living inside and outside Afghanistan would respond to this historic opportunity. Mr Cordovez hoped that at this crucial stage all concerned would promote endeavors of Afghan people to work out arrangements for broad-based government and would support and facilitate that process.

Algeria

Hijacked Kuwaiti Plane May Come to Algiers

NC121057 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1050 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] At a news conference in Kuwait today, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said he has, at Kuwait's request, reached an agreement with the Algerian authorities, by which the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner will leave for Algiers.

'Arafat said: We must first ascertain that the hijackers will leave for Algiers and not anywhere else.

President Receives Phone Call From Kuwait Amir

LD111306 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] We have just heard that the head of state, President Chadli Bendjedid, had a phone call this morning from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait.

Chad

French Say Libyans 'Strengthened' Garrison

LD120526 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Answering a question for the European-African press, Michel Aurillac [French Minister of Cooperation] reviewed the Chadian-Libyan conflict, reiterating some of the concern expressed by the French defense minister:

[Begin Aurillac recording] There are two things that we are practically certain of:

First, the Libyans have considerably strengthened their garrison in the north between Aozou, Mattanesara, and Koufra—well, all the northern part has been heavily strengthened and it appears that there is now more equipment there than before the fighting in which the Chadians liberated nearly all of their territory.

The second thing we know is that a fair number of lighter columns, taking advantage of the confusion prevailing (?on the ground) crossed the Darfur—that is, they are following the Chadian border toward the south and have arrived at Abeche. This is known.

What we also know is that France has doubled the number of airports in Chad, since in addition to Ndjamena Airport we now have Abeche Airport, which is accessible to modern aircraft.

Having already secured part of the necessary resources for it, we also want to build a modern airport in Faya Largeau. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Message From King Fahd

NC041146 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. This was reported in a statement by As'ad Abu al-Nasr, Saudi ambassador to Egypt, after his meeting with President Mubarak today.

The Saudi ambassador added that the message falls within the context of consultations and coordination between King Fahd and President Mubarak to serve Arab interests, clear the atmosphere among Arabs, and end the differences existing in the region.

The Saudi ambassador praised President Mubarak's stand on the Israeli threats to Saudi Arabia. He noted that President Mubarak's position toward Saudi Arabia is a brotherly and honorable one, as are his stands toward his brothers in the entire Arab region.

Asked about the current situation in Saudi Arabia in view of the latest Israeli threats to strike at the missiles sites in Saudi territory, Ambassador Abu al-Nasr said that as a sovereign state his country has a right to obtain and install defense weapons on its land. At the same time, Saudi Arabia has never been an aggressive or belligerent state, but one that always calls for peace, fraternity, and amity, he added.

Asked when the custodian of the holy mosques would make his promised visit to Egypt, Ambassador Abu al-Nasr said the date for the visit will be fixed at the appropriate time, God willing. He noted that when the king comes to Cairo he will be coming to his own country and kinfolk.

Mubarak Receives PLO Political Adviser 9 Apr

NC090948 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—This morning, President Husni Mubarak received Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Sa'id Kamal also attended the meeting.

'Abd al-Majid Addresses Assembly on 'Uprising'

NC061511 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—The People's Assembly has declared its support for the efforts being exerted by President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East, resolve the Palestinian issue, and enable the Palestinian people to retrieve their legitimate and just rights.

At a session at noon today chaired by Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, the People's Assembly praised the great role played by Egypt's diplomacy in backing and supporting the Palestinian uprising in all international forums and in the search for a just peace in the region.

This followed a statement by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the beginning of the session on Egypt's stand on the Palestinian issue and the uprising in the occupied territory.

The text of Dr 'Abd al-Majid's statement follows:

Since the October war in 1973 and the failure of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, the Arab-Israeli conflict has not witnessed a more momentous event than the uprising of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which has been going on since December 1987.

The uprising has upset the equation and imposed the Palestinian issue on the international community as a priority issue, after it had been pushed aside by other international and regional problems.

The unarmed and defenseless Palestinian people have proved that they have a powerful (?will) and are ready to make limitless sacrifices. The 20 years of Israeli occupation have failed to break their resistance or sap their determination to demand their legitimate right to self-determination on their national soil.

They have also proved that force alone cannot settle the matter and that Israel cannot have both land and peace. Genuine peace must be just and comprehensive for Israel, the Palestinian people, and Israel's neighbors.

The uprising, the massive sacrifices, the martyrs and wounded offered by the Palestinian people, the oppression, detention, and expulsion they have undergone, and the resulting siege of their camps and towns are not aims and aspirations in themselves, but the means for a proud people to express its rejection of oppression and carry out their legitimate struggle for freedom. The echoes of the uprising have reverberated among millions of people.

The uprising has stirred the consciences of honest people throughout the world and generated in world public opinion a rejection of Israel's repressive measures and a sympathy with the Palestinian people's heroic steadfastness. In addition, a considerable portion of Israeli society itself and of Jewish communities throughout the world, particularly in the United States, have begun to exhibit increasing sympathy for the Palestinian people's just cause. To sum up, the uprising has shaken the dust off the file of the Palestinian issue. It has commanded world attention and emphasized that the current status quo cannot continue.

Let me state unequivocally and firmly that Egypt's stand toward the uprising has been the clearest and strongest from the beginning. We support the Palestinian people's right to determine their future. We reject the occupation, condemn the Israeli measures, and urge the international community, especially the most influential states, to move toward a just and honorable political settlement based on UN resolutions 242 and 338, and to act in convening an international conference under UN auspices, with the participation of the five permanent member states of the Security Council and all parties concerned.

'Abd al-Majid repeated the clause "the parties concerned, and the right of the PLO, which is a main party, to choose the Palestinian people's representatives to these negotiations designed to end the occupation and enable the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate national rights. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid added: Egypt has a place in this issue. It is shouldering a pan-Arab responsibility, for the sake of which it has waged the battles of war and of peace. Egypt has direct relations with the great powers and with the other parties concerned, particularly the PLO, Jordan, and Israel. Egyptian-Palestinian dialogue at the highest levels has never stopped. Egyptian-Jordanian coordination is continuing and its channels are open at all levels. The presence of our embassy in Tel Aviv allows us to convey our sound and clear stand to the Israeli officials.

There is today an American effort to reach a political settlement. We should not ignore the significance of the third visit to the region in the past few weeks by the U.S. secretary of state. This effort follows the realization of the true significance of the Palestinian people's uprising and the understanding of the Egyptian political effort led by President Mubarak during his visit to the United States and a number of West European countries at the beginning of this year.

President Mubarak made his proposals, the purpose of which was to set the issue in motion. The international community responded to his appeal. President Mubarak did not limit his attention to a single issue but urged on the U.S. Administration the necessity of a dialogue with Syria, the importance of getting Syria involved in the peace process, and the need to restore the Arab teritories in the Golan.

The uprising is to the Palestinians what the glorious October war is to the Egyptians and Arabs. It has changed the balance of power in the region. It has underlined the national administration [al-idarah al-madaniyah], the willingness for sacrifices, and the rejection of the occupation. It has prompted the international community and its influential elements to search for a just political solution.

The glorious October war was politically exploited to complete the liberation of Egyptian territories. In the same way, it is our duty to exploit the new developments brought about by the courageous Palestinian uprising, so that they may continue politically and without any delay. In this way the Palestinian people's legitimate national hopes may be fulfilled.

In his statement to the People's Assembly on the Palestinian uprising, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: Egypt acts on the basis of accurate calculations. It understands the reality and the goal and is moving toward the latter without losing sight of it or altering its principles. We call for peace for us and for those around us. There will be no peace while the Palestinian people are deprived of their legitimate rights.

He noted that Egypt has nothing to do with hollow slogans. Its policy is an ethical one that knows no oneupmanship or gains of illusionary heroism at the expense of more Palestinian sacrifices, regardless of the consequences. He said: Every Palestinian martyr felled by the bullets of Israel's soldiers is our martyr.

The Egyptian leader, government, and people are fully aware of the extent of the tragedy. They are also fully aware of the extent of the danger. Egypt is coordinating with Jordan and the PLO, it is holding discussions with influential and effective powers, and it has a dialogue with Israel. The ultimate aim is a just, peaceful settlement through an international conference.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid went on to say: There is not a single door that Egypt has not knocked on in defense of Palestinian rights. It has made eforts in all capitals, all regional groupings, and international and regional organizations. The last of these took place a few days ago when the conference of the Islamic foreign ministers met in Amman. The conference brought the support of 46 Islamic countries and their solidarity with the Palestinian uprising.

He added: The ones who can best answer the question of what Egypt has done for the Palestinian uprising are the sons of this same uprising. They are the sons of the Palestinian camps, villages, and towns in the occupied teritories. They are the sons of this people who are outside the occupied territories.

He said Egypt was eager that there should be a meeting between Shultz and Palestinians, and this recently took place in Washington. The Palestinians' appreciation of Egypt's stance and their dependence on and confidence in it is the unequivocal answer.

Tabah Delegation Leaves for Geneva Talks

NC080946 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—The Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks, led by Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, director of the Legal Department at the Foreign Ministry, left Cairo for Geneva this morning for a week's visit. The delegation will attend the second session of oral summations pertaining to the Tabah issue.

Ambassador Ahmad Mahir has stated that Egypt has succeeded in affirming its sound argument and revealing the weaknesses of the Israeli allegations. He added that the tribunal will issue its ruling on the Tabah dispute next summer. [passage omitted]

Abu Ghazalah Meets PRC Air Force Commander

NC091426 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—In his office this morning, Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, received General Wang Hai, commander of the Chinese Air Force and Air Defense, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Abu Ghazalah also met separately with Habib Boulares and Jose Manuel [Parreira], Tunisian and Portuguese ambassadors in Cairo respectively.

Palestinians Arrested for Links With Dimona

JN091653 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Apr 88 p1

[By Lutfi 'Abd al-Lutif]

[Text] The state security police have arrested nine Palestinian residents of Cairo and Alexandria and accused them of helping the three Palestinians who blew up the Dimona bus in the occupied territory last month.

The nine Palestinians were interrogated at the state security police premises in Lazughli and Alexandria to find out their role in facilitating the crossing from the Egyptian border to the occupied territory and extending material assistance to the three who carried out the operation.

The nine who have been arrested are: Ghassan Ka'kush, Ahmad Rustum, Mustafa Husayn Nasr, 'Umar al-'Ali Hasan al-'Ali, Amin Muhammad Salamah, Musa 'Isa Muhammad, Tariq Husayn Tahsin, Jamal Muhammad Abu al-'Uyun, and Nahid Amin al-Sarraj. They are Palestinians who have been residing in Egypt for a long time together with their wives and children.

The Liberties Committee of the Lawyers Union has adopted the case of the nine Palestinians and sent several advocates to defend them and to attend all interrogations.

Commentary Urges Arabs To Support Shultz

NC082324 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Zayn al-Ja'fari commentary: The Arab Countries Are Called Upon To Support the U.S. Peace Efforts So That the Opportunity Is Not Missed]

[Text] Amid the clear-cut differences in views among the parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict, an important fact must not escape the Arab countries: some progress has been achieved through the talks which U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has held during his shuttle missions in the Middle East.

This progress has been achieved despite Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's insistence on worn-out concepts that are incompatible with the positive signs of support for the establishment of a comprehensive and durable peace.

The Arab countries are called upon now more than at any time before to make the best use of this progress, no matter how slight. They also are urged to exert maximum efforts and promote cooperation so that the peace march can reach the aspired objective; namely, the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace that guarantees the rights of all peoples in the region, including the Palestinian people, to live within secure and recognized borders.

Furthermore, the Arab countries must not allow the state of stagnation to recur in the Middle East, since this could lead to more violence and counterviolence, as demonstrated by the current bloody events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Out of Egypt's awareness of the grave risks inherent in the current situation and the serious impact it could have on all the parties concerned, President Husni Mubarak has asked Shultz to continue his efforts, which he initiated more than 6 weeks ago, so as to maintain the momentum of the peace process and so that the United States can overcome all the obstacles standing in the way of an international peace conference.

This conference is deemed the only practical and acceptable formula for finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Among the most important obstacles is Israel's rejection of this conference.

We also hope that Washington will persuade Yitzhaq Shamir to reconsider his position, which in reality is based on several worn-out concepts and ideas that only are governed by the Israelis' desire to have everything and to deprive the Palestinians of everything. Shamir would be making a grave mistake if he were to believe for a moment that Israel could put such concepts and ideas into effect.

Israel must resort to reason and realize that peace cannot be achieved unless it recognizes the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and their right to establish their own state on their national soil.

Based on the foregoing, Egypt is extremely eager to urge the United States to continue its efforts to achieve peace in the region, in view of the complications associated with the peace process. Such complications make the United States' task of convincing the Israelis of the need to resort to reason one of unceasing efforts and inexhaustible patience.

In the same way, the Arab countries are asked to show the maximum degree of cooperation and support, now that Shultz' mission has entered a delicate phase that could end up with acceptance of the Arab viewpoint, so that an international conference could be convened on a basis endorsed by the majority of countries in the world.

For Shultz to achieve the foregoing, he must accept the Arabs' basic demands and convince Israel that wasting the current opportunity will cost it a lot in terms of its security and stability. The Palestinians will not accept anything short of Israel's withdrawal from their occupied lands, a demand backed not only by the Arab countries but also by the majority of countries in the world.

Paper on Israeli Attitude To Palestinians

JN120931 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Apr 88 p 7

[Editorial:" On Origin And Evolution"]

[Text] During his latest visit to the region, we did not hear Shultz publicly calling on Israel to stop its genocide of Palestinians in the occupied territory or to lift the information blackout, even out of shame, so that Israel would have the opportunity to temper its excessive measures and appear somewhat respectable.

If Israel has reduced the hours of curfew in certain areas, the state of siege and tyranny still exists. Reports are leaked every day about the martyrdom and injury of scores of Palestinians, and about new methods of raiding houses and oppression.

These new methods include burning huts while those inside are alive; throwing victims into ovens; burying people with bulldozers; raiding hospitals, mosque grounds, and even places of mourning. These measures also include the harassment of sheikhs and ulemas, including the mufti of Jerusalem, and shooting any youth suspected of carrying anything. All that remains now is to kill everybody, because they all carry something, at least inside their chests.

One fact that does emerge from the smoke billowing from bullets and tear gas shells is that the occupation authorities now deal with Palestinians as living human beings. In the past, and under Golda Meir in particular,

it was generally said that there were no Palestinian people. The question then was: Where are these people? The matter then progressed, according to the theory of origin and evolution. So according to Shamir, the Palestinians are insects. Insects are at least living creatures.

These insects are so quarrelsome that he demanded they be crushed. But what is happening in reality is that these insects have developed into human beings. Evidence of this is that they are throwing stones. If throwing stones means that they are still primitive, then surely the law of evolution will continue and the time will come when these people will start using today's tools.

Despite all this, the vicious campaign continues. The killing of Palestinians, even if they are primitive, is genocide. This is really Israel's dilemma. Israel has now even started fighting what is termed "the photo war". In the photographs that were shown to the world, methods of oppression were depicted, such as chaining victims and beating them with special unbreakable clubs.

In the past clubs would break because those who were beaten were tough. Israel is now recovering from its first shock and is staging a countercampaign in the world. This countercampaign was manifested recently in a photograph taken by their propaganda media of an Israeli soldier giving water to a chained and blind-folded prisoner to show the good humane treatment Israeli soldiers give to prisoners, or at least that is how it is meant to appear.

By all standards they are living human beings. But where is Shultz in this genocidal campaign?

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Cable from 'Arafat

LD111450 Tripoli JANA in English 1410 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution receives a congratulatory cable from Brother Yasir 'Arafat the leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization in which he expressed, in his name and on behalf of members of the PLO Executive Committee, his warm congratulations to the leader of the revolution and to the Libyan Arab people on the 18th anniversary of expelling the troops and British bases off the Libyan soil.

Brother 'Arafat praised the support given by the Great 1st Sept. Revolution to the sons of the Arab Palestinian nation saying that the Palestinians are proud to have the support which constitutes a driving force for the pan Arab struggle for the central cause of the Arab people.

The Palestinian Arab people, he said, as they confront the Zionist enemy take the opportunity to commemorate and join in the celebration of the heroic struggle of the Libyan Arab people against all past forms of horrific colonialism.

Brother 'Arafat expressed also his deep rooted belief in the brotherly ties of solidarity that join the Palestinian Arab people and the Libyan Arabs in their mutual confrontation of the American imperialist plots.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Austrian, Somali Figures

LD120415 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Dr Norbert Steger, the former Austrian vice chancellor and vice president of the Arab-Austrian Friendship Society.

He has arrived as an envoy of former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, whose health did not allow him to come to the Great Jamahiriyah, to convey his greetings to the brother of the revolution and congratulate him on the great historic action of demolishing the prison, releasing prisoners and tearing up lists of those banned from traveling, and on opening the frontiers of the Great Jamahiriyah to all Arabs.

The brother leader of the revolution also received Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs [title as heard]. The meeting was attended by the secretary of People's Bureau for External Liaison and the Somali ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Ghana's Rawlings Greets Al-Qadhdhafi

LD061128 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1045 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Apr (JANA)—Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman of the PNDC in Ghana, had a telephone conversation with the brother leader of the revolution.

He greeted the leader on the 18th anniversary of the expulsion of the British military and their bases from Libyan soil, and on the revolutionary measures mentioned by the leader in his speech during the festivities marking this great anniversary in Tubruq.

Tunisian Economy Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD091558 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Apr JANA—Brother Slaheddine Ben Mbarek, Tunisian minister of national economy, and the delegation accompanying him arrived today in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA, the minister said: It has become natural these days for us to make visits with regard to the many issues for consolidating the distinguished and meticulous will existing in both fraternal countries for integration.

He added that they are working with the necessary speed and according to well laid down programs in order to save time and put cooperation plans in all fields into effect as soon as possible. We will succeed in the implementation of all that has been agreed on, he said.

Colonel Jabir Returns From Sudan 8 Apr

LD082020 Tripoli JANA in English 1803 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir the commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces arrived this afternoon in Tripoli after joining the celebrations of the Arab people in sisterly Sudan of the 3rd anniversary of Rajab-April Revolution. [passage omitted]

In a statement to journalists, Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir said: "We joined in the feast of the brotherly Sudanese people and its joy in the 3rd anniversary of the Rajab Revolution which toppled the rule of agent Numayri. During this visit, we met all political figures in sisterly Sudan".

He pointed out to the discussion of all matters concerning both sisterly countries and the Arab nation. He asserted that points of views were identical on liberation and the Arab unity's way being the joint struggle way to achieve the hopes of the Arab nation.

"We have reviewed also the most important African and international issues of concern to Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan. The coming months will witness concentrated activities in this direction".

Mauritania

Finance Minister, Other Officials Appointed

LD120126 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The chairmanship of the Military Committee for National Salvation issued the following communique this morning:

In accordance with our Constitution, the following appointments have been made today:

Minister of Finance and Economy—Mohamed Ould Nany.

Secretary of State for Combating Illiteracy and Pedagogic Education—Ahmed Ould Khalifa Ould Jiddou.

Moreover, in accordance with the decree issued today, Ahmed Ould Zein has been appointed governor of the Mauritanian Central Bank.

Sudan

Ethiopia Reportedly Offers Secret Peace Talks

EA111641 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] AL-WATAN has reported that after Ethiopia's agreement with Somalia, Ethiopia made a similar offer to Sudan which would require entering into urgent secret negotiations on eliminating the Eritrean presence in Sudan in return for eliminating John Garang and his group from Ethiopia.

The paper said that this offer reached Sudan through several channels. However, highly placed authorities realized that the explosive situation in Ethiopia was behind this offer and not the desire for peace and negotiations.

Tunisia

Government Reshuffled; Defense Post Abolished

LD111340 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held a working session with Mr Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister, this morning at the presidential palace in Carthage.

The session dwelt on the activity of the government. Following the meeting, Mr Hedi Baccouche stated that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has introduced a minor government reshuffle and has decided to abolish the post of minister of national defense, and that the president of the Republic, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, is to carry out the duties of the national defense minister.

The president has appointed Mr Abdallah Kallel as secretary general of the Ministry of National Defense.

He has also appointed Messrs:

Slaheddine Baly	minister of state in charge of justice
Hedi Khelil	minister of national education
Abdessalem M'seddi	minister of higher education and scientific research
Lassad Ben Osman	minister of agriculture—it has also been decided to incorporate the ministries of agriculture, agricultural products, and foodstuff production into one ministry
Abdelmalek Arif	minister of cultural affairs
(Abdelhamid Escheikh)	minister of youth and sports
Hamouda Ben Slama	secretary of state delegate to the minister of public health

Slaheddine Baly	minister of state in charge of justice
Hedi Khelil	minister of national education
Abdessalem M'seddi	minister of higher education and scientific research
Mohamed Ali Boulayman	secretary of state delegate to the minister of equipment and housing, in charge of housing and urbanism
(Ahmed Smaoui)	secretary of state delegate to the minister of transport and tourism, in charge of tourism
Amor Ben Ramdhane	secretary of state delegate to the minister of agriculture, in charge of agricultural products and foodstuff production
(Ameur Harchani)	secretary of state delegate to the minister of agriculture, in charge of water resources

Defense Secretary Carlucci Ends Visit

LD092239 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] During his meeting today with the press prior to his departure from Tunis, Mr Frank Carlucci reiterated the U.S. Administration's total support for Tunisia under the leadership of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, whom he congratulated anew for his courageous initiatives both to promote democracy in Tunisia and to improve the difficult situation which the country was facing.

He added: We are very aware of the acute crisis brought about by the locust invasion. The United States is determined to continue meeting Tunisia's special needs during this period.

The U.S. secretary of defense described his audience with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali as excellent and said that it had dealt with a number of bilateral and regional matters, as well as matters of common interest.

Mr Frank Carlucci recalled his talks with Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister; Slaheddine Baly, the minister for national defense; and Mahmoud Mestiri, the foreign minister, and added that they had revolved around the longstanding relations of cooperation between Tunisia and the United States.

Baccouche Hails Results of Talks With Libya

LD072336 Tripoli JANA in English 1737 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—"Hedi Baccouche" the prime minister of Tunisia asserted that the transformation being witnessed by the relations between Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia is based upon the firm desire for cooperation and integration.

On his viewing of the outcome of the meetings of the joint supreme committee of both the General People's Committee and Tunisia's Cabinet, he hinted that the results achieved were fruitful and the air of response in those meetings raises optimism in the future and points out to the opening of wide prospects in the fields of cooperation, integration and firmly pressing ahead towards achieving the unity of the Arab Maghreb countries.

Ben Ali Sees PLO Executive Committee Members

LD062130 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] The ties of solidarity and fraternity between Tunisia and our Palestinian brothers are being affirmed.

His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met this morning at the Republic Palace in Carthage with members of the PLO Executive Committee and members of the Fatah Central Committee, led by Yasir 'Arafat, in the presence of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche.

Following the meeting, which was also attended by Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO representative in Tunisia, Yasir 'Arafat made the following statement:

I had the pleasure, with my brothers in the Palestinian leadership, of meeting with Brother President Zine El Abidine, the adornment of the Arabs, as I have called him in my latest speech, and also of meeting with our brother Hedi Baccouche.

We informed his excellency the president of events in the Palestinian arena and the continuing escalation of the blessed uprising of our people, which will continue until the end of the Israeli occupation.

I thanked him on behalf of our people for all that Tunisia, the government, people, and leadership, have done for their brothers, the Palestinian mujahidin. We are together until victory, God willing.

President Marks 50th Anniversary of 9 April

LD090741 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2101 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to mark the anniversary of the "martyrs of 9 April" on 8 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Citizens, the Tunisian people celebrate these days the 50th anniversary of the glorious events of 9 April. [passage omitted]

Here we are today continuing the rapid march for achievement and embodiment of the principles and values for which our predecessors offered their pure souls and sacrificed their lives.

Moreover, we are achieving with determination a civilizational change that supports and consolidates the independence of which they dreamed.

We expressed our commitment in the 7 November declaration to amend the Constitution in a way that corrects aberration and deviation, and to improve it by what is appropriate to our reality and aspirations, and by what really consolidates the people's sovereignty and our sacred right in the choice of who runs our affairs.

In our endeavor to embody this goal, we took the initiative to present a draft law to the House of Deputies stipulating annulment of presidency for life and automatic succession, which used to encroach on the rights of the Tunisian people and degrade their maturity and awareness. We also started revising the electoral bill in order to guarantee the widest participation for Tunisians of all political orientations in the running of the system and the institutions of the state.

Citizens, out of our conviction that the future of the country and its development require a solid ground, we called for opening a broad dialogue for setting up a national charter in which all the dynamic forces can take part and which sets the foundations of the modern state and the rules and morals that are the basis of social action. [passage omitted]

On this basis, we took the initiative to bring reconciliation and concord between the trade unionist sides, and opened before them the ways of fraternity. In addition to that, we have decided to reintegrate back to work all those who were expelled from their jobs for trade unionist reasons in the public sector, and issue our orders to this effect. [passage omitted]

Deputies Discuss Constitutional Amendments
LD301725 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies held a general meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Rachid Sfar and in the presence of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, a number of government members, and members of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Constitutional Rally. Our correspondent has the details:

[Correspondent] The session was devoted to looking into the draft amendment to the current Constitution. The report of the Constitution amendment committee stipulated, in a first reading, that the draft is an inseparable part of the package of related political and developmental reforms and amendments, which has continued since 7 November, and which should consolidate the return of awareness and the confidence of the people in their abilities and in the leadership which has been given their trust, as well as in the legitimate representatives.

From reading the report of the committee, we note that the proposed amendments mean that the following articles—21, 28, 39, 40, 57, 60, 62, and 63—of the Constitution have been dropped and replaced by the following provisions:

The new Article 21—reduction of the minimum age of nomination to the Chamber of Deputies from 28 to 25 years;

The new Article 28—the Chamber of Deputies is the legislative body, and the Chamber shall ratify basic and ordinary laws by an absolute majority;

Article 39—The cancellation of the last clause of this article and, consequently, the cancellation of presidency-for-life. The president of the Republic may renew his candidacy not more than two consecutive times;

Completion of Clause 1 of Article 40, on condition that the candidate for the position of the presidency of the Republic enjoys only Tunisian nationality.

The proposed draft says that candidacy for the position of President of the Republic is the right of every Tunisian who does not hold another nationality; who is a Muslim; and whose parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents have all been Tunisian without interruption. It also stipulated that the maximum age for a candidate of the presidency of the Republic shall be 70 years and the minimum age 40 years.

The draft stipulated a change in the composition of the committee which supervises the validity of candidacy for the Presidency, and proposed the following composition: president—the president of the Chamber of Deputies; members—the minister of justice, the president of the Constitutional Council, the mufti of the Republic, the first president of the Court of Cassation, and the first president of the Administrative Court.

We now come to Article 57. In this regard, the new draft proposes that the president of the Chamber of Deputies will become the head of state in the event that post becomes vacant. This will be on a temporary basis for a minimum of 45 days and a maximum of 60 days.

The article also defined the tasks which will be entrusted to the president of the Chamber of Deputies when he assumes the head of state post.

The new proposal enables the president of the Republic to dissolve Parliament to avoid a possible disharmony between the policy of the president of the Republic and the attitude of the majority in the Chamber.

As for Article 60, it defines the tasks of the prime minister, which in essence center on the implementation and coordination of the work of the government.

With regard to the proposed amendment to Articles [number indistinct] and 63, emphasis was placed on the role of the Chamber of Deputies in supervising the work of the government and enabling the deputies to move a motion of censure against the government in all cases whenever it becomes clear that the policy of the government does not conform with the homeland's sublime interest. This motion should be signed by at least half the deputies.

The president of the Republic will accept the resignation of the government if tendered by the prime minister following the adoption of the motion of censure by a two-thirds majority of deputies.

The president of the Republic, if the Chamber of Deputies adopts a second motion of censure by a two-thirds majority during the same parliamentary period, can either accept the resignation of the government or dissolve Parliament.

In the chapter concerning transitional procedures, it was said that owing to the many considerations which take into account first and foremost the supreme interest of the homeland, the president of the Republic, whose parliamentary term ends during November 1991 can organize before the end of this period, early presidential or legislative, or presidential and legislative, elections.

The debate opened following the reading of the report, which was unanimously approved by the committee. Thirty-five deputies spoke—which is a record, as the president of the Chamber noted. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Further on Reaction to Hijacking of Airliner

Foreign Minister Comments

LD112038 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2006 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Apr (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reaffirmed that Kuwait will not budge from its stance of not submitting to terrorism and blackmail.

At a press conference held tonight at the Palace of Conferences following the end of the meeting of the Presidium of the fifth Islamic summit and the heads of the permanent committees, he said Kuwait, a small country which has suffered a great deal from internal and external terrorism, will never submit to blackmail and terrorism.

Shaykh Sabah reaffirmed Kuwait's cohesion as one family and said "there is no difference as far as we are concerned between one citizen and another and we are all one family."

At the news conference, which was attended by Eng 'Abd al-Rahman Ibrahim al-Huti, chairman of the higher preparatory committee for the meeting and minister of public works, and by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman al-Shahin, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed his profound regret and sorrow at the loss of two Kuwaiti nationals who fell victim to blind terrorism.

He said they were dear citizens to us and we will use our utmost efforts to release those dear ones who are in the plane. We will not submit to any blackmail or terrorism even if we lose more of our sons "because this decision is not only that of the Kuwaiti Government but it is the decision of the Kuwaiti people as well".

Replying to a question on the decision not to storm the plane, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that that was due to the fact the plane is not on Kuwaiti territory and this is a matter which is not in our hands but is in the hands of the state on whose land the plane is parked.

He stressed that terrorism is rejected by any man who has faith in his god and in his religion. He said those who resort to terrorism "are not Muslims nor Christians nor Jews, but they are murderers and have no rights in this life."

He expressed hope that the international community will one day be able to stop terrorism which the advanced countries have so far not been able to do.

He said he could not identify the nationality or the affiliations of the hijackers, noting that there are seven to nine of them.

He explained that the Kuwaiti authorities, upon checking the list of passengers on the plane, have found forged passports belonging to four Bahrainis, three Iraqis and one from Colombia. He added that the hijackers speak Arabic with a Lebanese accent. They also speak English. He emphasized that their identity is Arab.

He stressed that Kuwait will demand that the Cypriot authorities should hand over the hijackers because they have murdered Kuwaiti nationals. However, he said, Cyprus might refuse this demand because the killing occurred on its territory. He also noted that international law considers embassies and aircraft to belong to the state that owns them. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that contacts with the hijackers have continued for 8 days from the time the plane landed at Mashhad airport and afterward in Cyprus. We will continue these contacts on the basis of not submitting to blackmail.

He confirmed that the weapons entered the plane at the airport from which it took off—Bangkok airport. He said we have been unable to determine the quantity of weapons which consisted of pistols and hand grenades. These weapons were seen by some of the passengers who were released.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad declined to answer questions on whether other weapons were taken on board the plane after leaving Bangkok airport.

He said there are 51 hostages on the plane, most of them Kuwaitis, but there are also Jordanians, Saudis, and Egyptians.

He said Kuwait has found itself between two combatants for the past 8 years. As the saying goes: "He who stands too close to the blacksmith gets hurt by flying sparks." We have endured this and will continue to endure it. We endured more than this when the criminal attempt took place to assassinate the sumbol of the country, his highness the amir. We will continue to be patient until the day the war ends.

He pointed out that the Islamic Court of Justice, set up by the fifth Islamic summit in Kuwait in 1987, has now been instituted. Regrettably, an insufficient number of Islamic states had approved it until now in order for it to come into being. All the members have appealed for the charter of the court to be approved.

He explained that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane has nothing to do with the setting up of the court because the hijackers are outlaws and the situation does not concern differences over land or frontiers.

At the beginning of his press conference Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad had expressed in the name of his highness the amir his appreciation for the response of the leaders of

the Islamic states or those representing them in attending the meeting of the Presidium of the office of the fifth Islamic summit and the heads of the permanent committees.

He also expressed his gratitude and thanks for the sympathy and solidarity shown to the people of Kuwait and his gratitude to all peace-loving peoples for standing by Kuwait and its people in their steadfast stance against this terrorism and their refusal to submit to blackmail.

He said his highness the amir had taken this initiative of extending an invitation to hold this meeting to follow up resolutions adopted previously.

The sixth Islamic summit conference will be held in Senegal in 1990. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad gave his press conference following this evening's emergency session of the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers to discuss the events relating to the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner.

1st Victim's Body Returning

LD112001 Kuwait KUNA in English 1919 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Larnaca, April 10 (KUNA)—Body of the first victim of the hijack tragedy Muhammad al-Khalidi will be flown to Kuwait Tuesday afternoon on board a Royal Jordanian 'Alia' flight, it was confirmed here Monday.

Al-Khalidi was murdered by the hijackers Saturday with three shots in the head.

The second victim, whose name was not yet released, is still in hospital and has reportedly been fatally shot with a single bullet in the head.

There was no response on whether the second victim will be taken to Kuwait aboard the same 'Alia' flight, however.

2d Hijack Victim Named

LD120903 Kuwait KUNA in English 0844 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 12 (KUNA)—An official source at the Kuwait Interior Ministry announced here Tuesday that the name of the second victim of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner "Al-Jabiriya" is Khalid 'Ayyub 'Ismail 'Ayyub Bandar.

The spokesman added in a statement to KUNA that the victim, who was killed yesterday by the Kuwaiti airliner's pirates, is a Kuwaiti national and is 20 years old. He noted that the victim works in the fire brigade.

AL-QABAS Reports on Hijacking

JN111616 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 10 Apr 88 pp 1, 17

[By 'Adil Ilyas in Bonn]

[Text] A Western diplomatic source in Bonn has asserted to AL-QABAS that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner to Iran and its landing at Mashhad, in northeast Iran, in particular would not have taken place without cooperation among various secret intelligence services that participated in the hijacking.

It is true that Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani has officially condemned the hijacking and described it as a "conspiracy" to divert attention from the Gulf war; that Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said the hijacking is "a military operation that threatens civilians and has neither a motive nor a justified poliltical legality" and that the Iranian ambassador in Bonn justified the airliner's landing in Mashhad as "a human Iranian act due to shortage of fuel aboard the airliner and also due to purely humanitarian, Islamic reasons."

Still, the Western source's information affirms to AL-QABAS that the hijacking would never have occurred if there were no cooperation among various intelligence services from the airliner's takeoff at Bangkok until its landing at Mashhad.

The Western source also asserted to AL-QABAS that the hijacking undoubtedly occurred at least with the knowledge and cooperation of political forces in Iran.

The source did not rule out that the hijacking aims to influence the course of elections in Iran, which began yesterday. Those participating and cooperating in the hijacking seek to influence the elections as part of their internal conflict, particularly against Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the current he represents.

As known, Hashemi-Rafsanjani has long been adopting a special policy that differs somewhat from that adopted by Khomeyni's spiritual and political leadership. As a result of this policy, Hashemi-Rafsanjani now has many enemies inside Iran.

Among the accusations brought against Hashemi-Rafsanjani by his enemies and foes inside Iran is that he does not want to export the Islamic revolution abroad and that he insists on avoiding confrontation with the United States and its fleet in the Gulf.

He also seeks ways not to aggravate the Iraq-Iran war. The Western source in Bonn told AL-QABAS that this internal Iranian force attempted to topple Hashemi-Rafsanjani when the Iranian-U.S.-Israeli arms scandal and Hashemi-Rafsanjani's role were revealed.

There was also an attempt to expose Hashemi-Rafsanjani's political stand on the Islamic revolution. Mahdi Hashemi, leader of the so-called Organization To Export the Revolution Abroad was the victim of revealing this scandal at that time.

During his trial, his collaboration and work against the Islamic revolution's goals were confirmed. The Western source asserted to AL- QABAS that this organization was officially dissolved, but its influence and activities continue in Iran as before.

Flights to Far East Suspended

BK120942 Hong Kong AFP in English 0931 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Bangkok, April 12 (AFP)—Kuwait Airways has suspended all its Far Eastern flights as of Wednesday, eight days after one of its passenger jets was hijacked on a flight from Bangkok, an official for the airline said here Tuesday.

The official, who asked not to be named, said he had received a telex from his home office "saying our flights in and out of Thailand, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were temporarily suspended until further notice."

He said the cities affected were Bangkok, Manila, New Delhi, Bombay, Karachi, Colombo and Dhaka.

He gave no reason for the suspension. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Hijacking, Larnaca Deaths

LD112138 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: This afternoon at Larnaca airport the murderous hijackers of the Kuwaiti plane smeared their hands with the blood of another innocent victim—a son of our homeland.

Do they think that by their crimes they can deflect our nation and our people from their march, principles, and laws? The terrorists have tried that before; they tried it with major terrorist operations, but they were defeated. Our homeland remains a torch of light and truth and our people proud and with their heads held high and with principled stances.

Why do the terrorists target the sons of our homeland? Is it because we say the words of truth, without deflecting from it? Is it because we reject blackmail?

Or is it because we uphold our national independence? Is it because we protect our country at all costs? Or is it because we are building a civilization, we are tied to values, we are creating history, and we are standing against bloodletting?

We stand for peace, for the causes of our homeland, and for our origins. They target the sons of our homeland because, in this strategic region of the world, Kuwait is playing an international role to the benefit of Arabs and Muslims, a role which 180 million Arabs and a billion Muslims trust with pride.

Our beloved amir is leading this good march, on both the Arab and the Muslim levels, with strength and wisdom, the trails of which go in every direction.

Do the terrorists think they can conceal this role? They have tried to do this with many terrorist crimes and with many and various maneuvers, but on every occasion, Kuwait, its people, its amir, and its men occupied a position that was higher and greater. Thus, the sight of the weak-spirited was blinded.

This afternoon, at Larnaca airport, the murderous hijackers of the Kuwait plane smeared their hands with the blood of another innocent victim—a son of our homeland.

Two martyrs of the courageous sons of Kuwait have fallen, but their blood will not flow for nothing. It is another step in the building of the pride and glory of the homeland.

The murderers are strangers to courage. Our people are behind their leader, the amir, the symbol of courage in our dear homeland and the symbol of pride and honor.

The murderers are strangers to the truth. Our people know the truth, and are behind their leader, the man of truth and justice. In truth, we fear none but God, the Lord of greatness, the great and able.

The murderers are forgetting the love of the homeland. Our people will sacrifice all for the homeland and for the leader of the homeland, the symbol of its greatness and love.

Though the murderers are using all their criminal wiles against Kuwait and its sons, Kuwait will remain as it always has—God willing—a source for truth and light, which uncovers their crimes, until the elimination of such criminal activities and their perpetrators is accomplished. May peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Press Commentaries Hail Stance Against Hijackers

Magazine Praises Stand

LD110426 Kuwait KUNA in English 0411 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 11 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti weekly magazine hailed the firm stance of Kuwait in dealing with the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner.

"AL-MUJTAMAA" magazine, in its Tuesday's issue, said Kuwait is determined "to confront terrorism in all its forms at a time terrorist pressures on Kuwait are mounting, pointing out that "Kuwait, which is small in size but big in its determination, has drawn the attention of the world by its steadfastness and firmness and rejection to kneel down."

The magazine called for intensifying the security measures on all Kuwaiti airplanes regardless of their destinations.

'Firm Stand' Hailed

LD110915 Kuwait KUNA in English 0846 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 11 (KUNA)—An English-language local daily Monday hailed the firm stand of Kuwait in dealing with all the terrorism operations and the air pirates of the Kuwaiti hijacked airliner, 'Al-Jabiriya.'

Daily 'KUWAIT TIMES' editorially said that Kuwait had already crossed the threshold, knew what was right and that its stance is clear 'no compromise with crime,' although that's a very towering commitment and very costly too.

The paper added that since the 12th of December in 1983 "when the first shot was fired in this game of bullying and blackmailing this friendly and helpful country by people of doubtful credentials, Kuwait has been subjected to blackmail and violence with a frequency which clearly suggests a conspiracy."

In conclusion, the paper affirmed that "for all the endeavours of the hijackers and their backers, Kuwait has found no reason at all to change course," and hoped that "those who pursue the right path will arrive at the destination not only victorious but also unscathed."

'Strong' Stand Applauded

JN111546 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 10 Apr 88 p 6

[From the "Opinion" column by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Kuwait Must Remain Firm"]

[Text] The hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner is security crisis for the whole world. It is part of the tension which prevails in a world in which innocent people suffer.

The most dangerous thing, however, is to bow to the threats of the hijackers, who will receive much pleasure if their demands are met. The issue in not the demands they have made at this time.

Today they want the release of prisoners; after that they may ask for ransom, and it is impossible to say the extent to which they would go following that.

Kuwait is a free society—its planes fly everywhere, Kuwait citizens travel to many countries and Kuwaiti embassies are in most countries. Kuwait's airliners, embassies and citizens are all easy targets for blackmail if the government's position is not strong and decisive in dealing with these hijackers.

During a meeting held by HH the Amir with the editors-in-chief of Kuwaiti newspapers, the Amir stressed that the hijackers seemed to think that the presence of some of the Al-Sabah family members on board the hijacked plane might weaken the government's firm stand.

HH stressed that the hijackers were totally wrong. The system in Kuwait does not differentiate among citizens—all are equal. These are indeed wise words of the man responsible for justice.

It must be remembered that any concessions made by the Kuwaiti government will not stop or be limited to this particular hijacking. These men may then be encouraged to kidnap individuals and to terrorise Kuwaiti establishments abroad.

A strong, decisive stand is the only way to stop these people and the wave of terrorism spreading throughout the world.

Our hearts are with the passengers still aboard the airplane, and we have nothing to give them except our prayers for their release and safety.

It is regrettable that this incident comes at a time when the presidency bureau of the fifth Islamic Summit and the permanent committees of the Organisation of Isalamic Conference are beginning their meetings in Kuwait.

The incident could be aimed at disrupting this important Islamic meeting, which yielded positive results at the Islamic summit in Kuwait last year.

The Kuwaiti government dealt wisely with the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane two years ago. The Kuwaiti government will show the same wisdom in cooperating with the Cypriot government in solving this dilemma, which is expected to leave victims behind.

Iranian 'Complicity' Charged

LD120932 Kuwait KUNA in English 0807 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] [Dateline indistinct] [KUNA]—Kuwaiti newspapers Tuesday charged of Iranian complicity in the week-long drama of the commandeered Kuwaiti jet liner now grounded at Larnaca airport, and urged the government not to cave in to the hijackers' demands whatever the price.

The daily "AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM" said the ordeal has shown an ugly collusion among the Lebanese hijackers and Iranian authorities when the Bangkok to Kuwait plane was forced to change routes and head for Mashhad in Northeast Iran.

The paper added that the air pirates acquired pistols, explosives and machineguns in Mashhad, and the aircraft was refuelled despite opposition from Kuwait Foreign Ministry trouble-shooting team which went to the remote Iranian city.

And the paper charged that Iranian officials were inhospitable to the Kuwaiti negotiating team and prevented them from disembarking from the plane that took them to Mashhad.

"It is indeed tragic that innocent Muslims are being slaughtered at the hands of a band of terrorists alleging to operate under the banner of Islam," the daily stressed.

Daily AL-SIYASAH said the carefully planned hijacking and then directing the plane to Mashhad "certainly suggests that the hijackers are instruments of a state, Iran, the leader of international terrorism."

"Frankly speaking, Iran is behind the hijacking and kidnapping operations. It seems that Iran thought that after attacking Bubiyan Island and wounding two Kuwaiti soldiers, Kuwait would be frightened to concede on the issue of Iran's agents imprisoned in Kuwait," the paper went on.

Iran may have thought Kuwaiti strength had weakened and differed from that which was evidenced four years ago when the Kuwait Airways airbus was hijacked to Tehran, AL-SIYASAH added.

"The hijackers have greatly miscalculated their venture, although they have proven very efficient in planning the hijacking," the paper siad.

Concluding, the newspaper emphasized that the Kuwaiti political leadership has been trying to deal with Iran logically and reasonably and "Iran will one day be taught a tough lesson."

"We do not claim to have power, since we do not have weapons like the Soviet Union, the advancement of the U.S. or the power of Western Europe. What we have is testimony from the whole world that we are a country of principles," the paper said.

In an editorial laced with sarcasm, the daily "AL-ANBA'" called on Arab governments to reconsider their relations with Iran in view of Iranian hostilities against Kuwait and subversive acts in other parts of the Arab nation, chiefly Lebanon, over the past eight years.

"A reasonable stance towards Iran had been required since eight years ago. Would Arabs soon realize the facts and act accordingly?" questioned the paper.

The daily praised the humanitarian efforts of Cypriot authorities "whose Christian values mirrored in their noble behaviour in the ordeal, which was much better than the conduct of many of our neighbors who claim to follow Islam."

Daily Al-QABAS, meanwhile, said the shooting to death of a second passenger on board the plane, in cold blood, underlined the need for some sort of action to spare the lives of the remaining hostages.

"We are in an unenviable position. Our brethren are held hostage under gunpoint. Their sole guilt is being the nationals of a state where law has the upper hand, and does not succumb to blackmail or intimidation," the newspaper noted.

Daily AL-WATAN said the gross slaughter by the air pirates of two Kuwaiti hostages on board the plane coincided with the deportation by Israeli authorities of a group of Palestinians from the occupied lands for resisting Israeli brutalities.

"This is the difference between the struggling sons of Palestine and a handful of gun-toting cowards sowing murder and terrorism," the paper added.

Meanwhile, English-language daily 'KUWAIT TIMES' said "the band of demented youths seen at the center of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti Airways jetliner should be seen for what is behind them: a wide and vile world of heartless violence."

The newspaper added that the battle is not against some hijackers but "with a force which is out to strangle forces of justice, human freedoms and rights, emancipation of the heads and hearts of benighted mankind."

"The battle is between cruelty and compassion, between the one who would keep his head high and the man with the beheader. When such be the test, Kuwait is unshakeable," KUWAIT TIMES said.

Speaking of the hijackers the paper said "their murderous deeds have left nothing for any court to look for further evidence to convict them as confirmed killers and criminals."

AL-ANBA' Reports 'Limited Explosion' 9 Apr

JN111424 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
10 Apr 88

[Text] A limited explosion occurred inside an old car in front of the Interior Ministry's garage in the Al-Sharq area last night. The explosive charge, which was planted inside the car, went off at 2045 yesterday, causing only slight damage.

Oman

Official Talks Held With Iran's Velayati

JN111442 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] This morning an official round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry between the Omani side led by Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdalalh, state minister for foreign affairs, and the Iranian side led by Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, currently visiting the Sultanate.

They discussed relations between the friendly countries and ways to consolidate them in various fields. They also reviewed Gulf, Arab, Islamic, and international developments.

Attending the talks were Haytham ibn Tariq ibn Taymur, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs, and Ahmad ibn Yusuf al-Harithi, head of the Arab desk at the Foreign Ministry.

On the Iranian side the meeting was attended by members of the delegation of the visiting minister.

Saudi Arabia

King Chairs Session on Hijacking, Pilgrimage

LD112102 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1810 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Ha'il, 11 Apr (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud presided over today's Council of Ministers session held at the Palace of Aja in the town of Ha'il.

Following the meeting, Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir pointed out to SPA that the council reviewed and discussed a number of important topics relating to the situation in the Middle East, the most prominent of which was the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, which has now entered its 7th day.

It is the worst violation of human rights, freedom and feelings, and is being condemned and denounced by all Islamic, Arab, and international circles throughout the world.

The information minister added: In this regard the council expressed its profound regret and pain for the innocent victims who were savagedly killed by the terrorist hijackers.

The council also expressed its full solidarity with and total support to the fraternal State of Kuwait in its stance in facing this abominable hostile incident.

Minister al-Sha'ir added: Within the framework of the continuing interest of the custodians of the two holy mosques in following up all stages of the preparations and arrangements currently being taken by various organs specializing in the affairs of the pilgrimage, and the service rendered to the pilgrims, the custodian of the two holy mosques reviewed with the council a number of the steps taken at this level.

He issued his directives and made some observations to the ministers concerned on the formulation of the general plan for this year's pilgrimage. The king also ordered the setting up of ministerial subcommittees, under the chairmanship of his royal highness the interior minister and chairman of the Higher Pilgrimage Committee, to study certain questions relating to security measures at the highest possible level to ensure the comfort of pilgrims, enabling them to perform their duties and worship at all rites with maximum ease and in safety and tranquillity.

The council will continue to follow up the decisions and recommendations of these committees at its future sessions, God willing.

The information minister went on to say: The king briefed the council on the outcome of his contacts and meetings with his brother leaders of the Arab nation within the framework of continuous consultations concerning proposed solutions to the area's issues, at the forefront of which are the Palestinian question, the Iraq-Iran war, the Lebanese question, and the struggle of the Afghan Mujahidin. He expressed his hope that the current efforts in this regard will lead to the hoped-for results of stability and peace and the return of security and calm to all parts of the area. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Iran's Velayati Arrives in Abu Dhabi on Visit

JN111445 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Apr (WAKH)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Abu Dhabi from Muscat this afternoon on a brief visit to the UAE.

Upon arrival, the Iranian minister stated he will exchange views with Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, on relations between the two countries and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Meets With Minister

LD120842 Tehran IRNA in English 0552 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 12, IRNA—Iran's visiting Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati reviewed international issues and regional developments with UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid ibn 'Abdallah here Monday.

Iranian Ambassador to Abu Dhabi Mostafa Haeri-Fumani and Iranian Consul to Dubayy Ahmed Ashraf Eslami were also present at the meeting.

Velayati briefed the UAE official on Iraq's chemical bombing of Halabjah on March 18 and presented documented evidence of Baghdad's deployment of chemicals on civilians in the Iraqi city. He also called on the UAE official to broaden cooperation with Iran in a bid to defuse tension in the region.

Rashid ibn 'Abdallah said he was pleased to host Velayati in Abu Dhabi and recommended they meet regularly for exchanging views on international and regional issues.

Further on Visit by Bulgaria's Atanasov

Meets President Saddam 5 Apr

JN051821 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received Georgiy Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers.

During the meeting, Atanasov conveyed a verbal message from Bulgarian State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the existing friendly bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in various spheres.

Atanasov also conveyed the greetings of Bulgarian State Council Chairman todor Zhivkov to his excellency the president.

Khristo Khristov, minister at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, was present during the meeting between his excellency the president and Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; the president's secretary; the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad; and the Iraqi ambassador in Sofia.

Talks Begin in Baghdad 5 Apr

JN052029 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and Bulgaria began in Baghdad this evening.

The talks which were headed on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and on the Bulgarian side by Georgiy Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, dealt with ways to enhance bilateral cooperation and with Arab and international issues of common interest to both states.

Both Taha Yasin Ramadan and Georgiy Atanasov reiterated the eagerness of both Iraq and Bulgaria to develop the existing bilateral ties of friendship, the foundations of which were laid by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and Bulgarian State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov during their meeting in Baghdad in 1980.

They also referred to the importance of finding new areas for economic, agricultural, and industrial cooperation that might contribute toward increasing the volume of bilateral trade and activating the ties of cooperation between mass and popular organizations in the two friendly states.

The first deputy prime minister reiterated Iraq's adherence to the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 in accordance with the sequence of its operative paragraphs.

He indicated that the implementation of this resolution is an international responsibility, as this resolution represented the international community's will regarding ending the Iraq-Iran war through peaceful means.

He also referred to the increasing growth of Iraq's combat and technical capabilities and to the high degree of preparedness of its Armed Forces to defeat the aggressive Iranian attempts.

For his part, Georgiy said Bulgaria fully supports the implementation of all articles of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which calls for ending the Iraq-Iran war without any preconditions to help establish an honorable peace.

The Iraqi side to the talks comprised Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Agriculture and Irrigation minister Karim Hasan Rida, the under secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture and Irrigation, the chairman of the General Federation of Peasant Societies, the chairman of the First International Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Iraqi ambassador in Sofia, and a number of officials.

The Bulgarian side to the talks comprised Khristo Khristov, minister at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations; Nikolay Dyulgerov, chairman of the Committee on the Preservation of Environment at the Council of Ministers [title as received]; the under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the director of the office of the chairman of the Council of Ministers; the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad; and a number of officials.

'Aziz Receives Atanasov

JN061959 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has met with Georgiy Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers. In a statement to INA, Tariq 'Aziz said that he has discussed the situation in the Arab region and the Balkan area with the chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers.

He explained that he has reviewed Iraq's political and diplomatic stands on UN Security Council Resolution No 598 as well as the firm stands that should be adopted by the international community to confront Iran's insistence on aggression and its rejection of the UN resolution.

He added that during the meeting they discussed developments in the Palestine question. He said Iraq's support for the Palestinian Arab people's uprising and the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, was stressed.

The meeting, which was held at the Bulgarian delegation's place of residence, was attended by the under secretaries of the two countries' foreign ministries and by Iraq's ambassador to Bulgaria and Bulgaria's ambassdor to Iraq.

Joint Communique Issued

JN071500 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Apr (INA)—Bulgaria has reiterated its stand which calls for ending hostilities between Iraq and Iran and resolving the conflict on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

This came in a joint communique issued in Baghdad and Sofia this evening at the conclusion of an official visit to Iraq by Georgiy Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers.

In the communique, the Bulgarian side expressed appreciation for Iraq's positive stands on the international peace initiatives and UN Security Council resolutions on the conflict.

The joint communique stressed the importance of the political dialogue between Iraq and Bulgaria and emphasized their mutual desire to continue to develop and deepen bilateral cooperation in various spheres in the interest of the two friendly peoples and also to serve world peace and security.

The following is the text of the joint communique: At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Iraq, Georgiy Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, paid a friendly and official visit to the Republic of Iraq 5-7 April 1988.

Georgiy Atanasov was received by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman and president of the Republic of Iraq. During the meeting, he conveyed to the president the greetings and best wishes for continued good health and happiness of Todor Zhivkov, State Council chairman of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

He also conveyed the chairman's best wishes for further progress and prosperity to the friendly Iraqi people. On his part, President Saddam Husayn requested that his best wishes of continued good health and happiness be conveyed to Chairman Todor Zhivkov and that his best wishes for further progress and prosperity to the friendly Buglarian people also be conveyed to Chairman Todor Zhivkov.

The official talks held by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, have been held in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding.

During the talks, they reviewed both countries accomplishments. They also discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in the interest of the two friendly peoples and on the basis of friendship and mutual understanding and benefit.

They voiced satisfaction over the successful development of existing relations between the Republic of Iraq and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, as evidenced by the agreements signed between the two countries at the head-of-state level and also by other governmental and non-governmental agreements which are being enforced.

The two sides emphasized the importance of the political dialogue between Iraq and Bulgaria and stressed their mutual desire to continue to develop and deepen bilateral cooperation in various spheres in the interest of the two friendly peoples and in service of world peace and security.

They indicated that economic cooperation renders important contributions toward the development of bilateral relations and pointed out that there is a good basis for expanding it in the future. They also assessed the bilateral scientific and technical cooperation and cultural relations and described them as good and successful.

During the visit, the joint Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation held its 19th session. The minutes of the session, which outlined the major directions for bilateral cooperation in the economic, trade, scientific, and technical fields during the year 1988, were signed in the presence of Taha Yasin Ramadan and Georgiy Atanasov.

During their review of pressing international issues, the two sides stressed the importance attached to compliance with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the provisions of international law in dealings among states.

They also emphasized the importance of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of world states, of noninterference in their internal affairs, and of the need to resolve disputes through peaceful means to preserve world security and peace.

The Iraqi side apprised the Bulgarian side of the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war and of the various international initiatives which have sought to end the war and resolve the conflict between the two warring nations through peaceful means.

The Iraqi side has reviewed its constructive stands on these initiatives and its responses to them. It pointed particularly to Iraq's positive position on the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the conflict, particularly Resolution 598, as well as Iraq's complete readiness to implement the resolution fully and in accordance with the sequence of its clauses as it was issued by the UN Security Council.

The Iraqi side reasserted its readiness to end the war and solve the dispute in a comprehensive and just manner on the basis of the UN Charter and international law to achieve an immediate and complete halt to military operations on all fronts, with forces' withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders, the comprehensive exchange of POW's, holding negotiations, and noninterference in either country's internal affairs.

The Iraqi side referred to the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit conference which was held in Amman 8-11 November 1987 on the Iraq-Iran war and on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and on supporting the efforts being exerted to implement it fully in a manner leading to the solution of all aspects of the dispute.

The Bulgarian side reaffirmed its principled and constant stand calling for a halt in all war operations between Iran and Iraq as soon as possible and settling the dispute on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598. The Bulgarian side also referred to the role of the United Nations and its secretary general in solving the dispute. It expressed support for the efforts to implement this resolution.

It also expressed its firm belief that the continuation of the war contradicts the interests of the Middle East states which, now, more than ever before, need to consolidate their ranks in struggle against Zionism and imperialism.

The Bulgarian side appreciated Iraq's positive stands on international initiatives and its response to peace initiatives and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The two sides referred to the historic importance of the agreement concluded during the Soviet-U.S. summit regarding the removal of U.S. and Soviet intermediate and short range missiles.

The agreement has become an important landmark beginning the actual removal of nuclear weapons. The two sides referred to the need to continue international disarmament efforts and the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons and other means of mass annihilation.

The two sides have expressed the conviction that the signing of the agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons by 50 percent, pursuant to the anti-missile defense system agreement which was signed and endorsed within a period of time to be agreed upon, constitutes an essential step in this direction.

During the exchange of opinions regarding the situation in Europe, the Bulgarian side proposed the need for giving a political boost for the ongoing operations in the European continent on the basis of the experiences and expertise which were accumulated during the coordination of the articles of the agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on intermediate and short range missiles.

The Bulgarian side has acquainted the Iraqi side with the resolutions of the Warsaw pact foreign ministers' meeting held on 29, 30 March in Sofia and affirmed the importance of implementing them because they will contribute to entrenching peace and security in Europe and the world.

The Bulgarian side has also acquainted the Iraqi side with Bulgaria's efforts to create an atmosphere of confidence, cooperation, and peace in the Balkan area and to turn it into an area free from nuclear and chemical weapons. The Bulgarian side noted the progress made in this field during the meeting of the Balkan foreign ministers, which was the first of its kind.

The Iraqi side placed a high value on the Buglarian contribution to reducing tension and to creating an atmosphere of friendliness and understanding in the Balkans.

In their review of the Middle East crisis, the two sides strongly condemned the Israeli expansionist policy against the Arab people. They also expressed their solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Republic of Iraq and the People's Republic of Bulgaria believe that a just, comprehensive, and permanent settlement of the situation in the region should be sought within the framework of an international conference on the Middle East in which the five permanent members of the Security Council and all concerned parties, including the PLO, will participate.

The two sides expressed their condemnation of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the continuation of the occupation of part of its territory. They expressed their support for the Lebanese people's struggle for sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

The two sides affirmed the importance of strengthening the effective role which the Nonaligned Movement can play on the international level as well as its role in averting nuclear catastrophe, preserving peace, and removing the serious hotbeds of tension and confrontation in international life.

The two sides reiterated their determination to support all peoples and national liberation movements in Asia, Africa, and Latin America which are struggling to achieve national independence and progress.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the results of the official and cordial visit of Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers. They also expressed their belief that this visit will contribute to the continuing the development of relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields.

At the end of the visit, the chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers and the accompanying delegation expressed their heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the hospitality they were accorded.

The chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers invited Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, to visit the People's Republic of Buglaria. The invitation was accepted with satisfaction. The date of the visit will be set later through diplomatic channels.

Talks End 6 Apr

JN071208 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1846 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—The official Iraqi-Bulgarian talks ended this evening. The Iraqi delegation to the talks was led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, while the Bulgarian side was led by Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministerss.

During the meetings, the two sides expressed satisfaction with the positive results attained at the talks and also at the meetings of the joint committee and its subcommittees.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of frankness and eagerness to promote the bilateral cooperation and relations of friendship that have been hoped for by President Saddam Husayn and Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov.

The RCC member and first deputy prime minister commended the high spirits shown by the Bulgarian side during the talks. He emphasized the solidity of the Iraqi economy, which is based on firm, strong, and advanced economic foundations.

He pointed out that by raising the slogan of "increasing production in defense of the homeland," the Iraqis have managed to double production in the agricultural and industrial fields, thanks to the administrative revolution and the restructuring of the Iraqi economy.

For his part, the Bulgarian prime minister stressed his country's determination, in light of Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov's instructions, to promote its relations with Iraq on a long-term basis. He expressed admiration for the spirit in which the Iraqi people are continuing construction, war, and the defense and revival of their heritage. He said this spirit shows a profound self-confidence, confidence in the future, as well as great vigor.

The Iraqi delegation comprised Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Karim Hasan Rida, the under secretaries of the two ministries, and the Iraqi ambassador in the Bulgarian captial.

The Bulgarian side comprised Khristo Khristov, minister of Foreign Economic Relations; a number of officials; and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad.

Telegrams Exchanged With USSR Marking Treaty

Presidium Sends Greetings

LD080938 Moscow TASS in English 0925 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government have sent a message of greetings to Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council and president of the Republic of Iraq, and to the friendly people of Iraq on the occasion of the 16th anniversary since the signing of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iraq.

The telegramme, addressed to Saddam Husayn, reaffirms the Soviet Union's wish to continue strengthening the relations of friendship and fruitful cooperation with Iraq for the benefit of the two countries, in the interests of the principles of general peace and security and the just settlement of regional conflicts.

Saddam Husayn conveyed warmest congratulations and best wishes to the friendly Soviet people in a telegramme addressed to the Soviet leadership on the occasion of the anniversary.

Iraq reaffirms its wish, the telegramme runs, to continue develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union to benefit the peoples of the two countries, to help establish stability and security in the region and achieve peace and progress in the world.

Leaders Exchange Messages

JN081323 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn and the Soviet leaders exchanged cables of congratulations on the 16th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union.

Iraq and the Soviet Union in their cables reaffirmed their desire to continue developing their relations in a manner that will serve their common interests and enhance the possibilities for attaining peace and security.

President Saddam Husayn sent a cable to Andrey Gromyko, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Chairman, and to Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The cable says: Mr Andrey Gromyko, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers: On the 16th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union, it gives me pleasure to extend to both of you and to the Soviet leadership sincere congratulations and my best wishes.

The treaty was established on the basis of mutual respect of sovereignty, independence, fruitful cooperation between our countries, and the desire for sound bases for the relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union.

Iraq reaffirms its desire to continue developing these relations in a manner that will serve the legitimate interests of both our people, enhance the possibilities for attaining peace and security in the region, and serve mankind's aspirations for peace and progress.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq

President Saddam Husayn received a cable from the Soviet leaders on this occasion. The cable says:

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman and president of the Republic of Iraq: On the 16th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Iraq, we would like to extend to you and to the Iraqi people our warm congratulations and best wishes.

The treaty guarantees the development of the multifaceted relations and the common interests existing between the Soviet Union and Iraq, and constantly serves the interests of the two people in the two countries.

We affirm the Soviet Union's desire to continue developing the fruitful relations of friendship and cooperation with Iraq in the interests of both our countries and to entrench the principles for comprehensive peace, world security, and a just solution to regional conflicts.

[Signed] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

The USSR Council of Ministers

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Bombing Halted on Election Day

JN090714 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—An authoritative Iraqi source said today that Iraq desisted from bombing [qasf] Iranian towns throughout the day yesterday to make it easy for certain good Iranians to cast their votes in the elections. The source added that the moratorium on bombing was a purely Iraqi decision.

In a statement to INA, the source said Iraq had hoped that good, responsible elements would be elected to the Iranian Majlis and change its structure so it would seriously consider the cause of peace and end the war in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No 598 by implementing its provisions in the order in which the resolution was adopted.

Iraq stopped its attacks on Iranian cities at 0615 [0215 GMT] yesterday when another missile was fired at the city of Qom. Elections for the Iranian Majlis began at 0700 yesterday.

Iran fired a missile at Baghdad at 1045 and another missile at Mosul, northern Iraq, at 1455 but Iraq did not fire in return.

'Victims' Leave for Hospitals

JN110843 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—Victims of the Iranian chemical bombardment in the northern sector on 30 and 31 March left Baghdad this morning for treatment in European hospitals.

In a statement to INA, a responsible source at Al-Rashid Hospital said that the cases transferred to France, the FRG, Austria, and Britain are samples of many cases still in hospitals receiving treatment for chemical poisoning. The source said that the effects of the poisoning on the victims reflect the inhumane practices of the Iranian regime.

Communique No 3,128

JN111623 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,128 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help and with the determination of the valiant men in the Military Industreis Organization [MIO] and that of the heroes of the Al-Husayn Missile Force, the following missile strikes were dealt:

1. At 0950 [0550 GMT] today, the 82d strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Esfahan.

2. At 0958 today, the 83d strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Tehran.

3. At 1203 today, the Al-Husayn Missile Force dealt its 84th strike to the city of Tehran. This is the second strike to the city of charlatans today.

Blessed be your hands, O unique men in the MIO and the Al-Husayn Missile Force. Praise be to God for the grace of victory. God is the best supporter.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 April 1988

Communique No 3,129

JN111648 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1602 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,129 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Armed Forces continued their heroic activities last night and today as follows:

1. Our heroic Air Force inflicted further losses on the enemy scoundrels, gun emplacements, and equipment by flying 104 combat missions today. Afterward, all our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

2. Our bold helicopter gunships today flew 216 combat missions, which inflicted important losses on the aggressors and their hardware and vehicles. Afterward, the helicopter gunship knights returned safely to base in God's care.

3. Three enemy troops were killed and one heavy machinegun and one large vehicle carrying personnel were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector. In the II Army Corps central sector, two enemy soldiers were killed and two infantry positions and two observation posts were destroyed.

4. One infantry position and one machinegun emplacement were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. One enemy soldier was killed in the IV Army corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Three infantry positions were destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector. In the VII Army Corps sector, one scoundrel was killed and one infantry postiion was destroyed.

6. The criminal enemy today shelled with long-range artillery residential areas in the city of Khanaqin. The shelling martyred and wounded a number of civilians, including women and children, and also damaged several houses and other property. Mercy to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 April 1988

Missile Fired at Tabriz

JN120458 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0451 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 12 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help, at 0800 [0400 GMT] today, the Al-Husayn Missile Force carried out its 85th strike on the city of Tabriz. May God bless you O men of the military industries and fighters of the Al-Husayn Missile Force. March ahead.

[Dated] 12 April 1988

Iranian Thrust 'Repulsed'

JN120830 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0809 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi forces repulsed an offensive yesterday which Iranian forces were attempting to carry out in the Panjwin area in the northern sector of operations since the day before yesterday.

In a statement today, a military spokesman for the Armed Forces General Command said that during this attempt no less than 2,000 Iranians were killed or wounded, that the Iraqi forces captured several Iranians, and that the rest of them have fled without achieving any of their objectives.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman said the Iranian regime turns Iranian defeats and tragic losses into victories which exist only in the sick minds of the Iranian rulers.

Missile Fired at Tehran 12 Apr

JN121107 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 12 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help, at 1357 [0957 GMT] today, the 86th strike with Al-Husayn missiles was carried out on the city of Tehran. Blessed be the men of the military industries and the men of the Al-Husayn Missile Force. Praise be to God for His victory.

[Dated] 12 April 1988

Spokesman on Iranian Losses

JN121129 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—A military spokesman has said that the unsuccessful Iranian offensive in the Panjwin area, northern Iraq, has resulted in thousands of dead bodies left behind by the Iranians on the battlefield without them occupying a single inch of territory.

In a statement today, the spokesman said that the remnants of the attacking Iranian force retreated inside Iranian territory chased by Iraqi artillery fire. He added that four Iranian brigades and several regiments were destroyed in this attempt.

He said that large quantities of weapons and equipment were also destroyed and that the Iraqi forces captured some serviceable weapons. He added that the Iranian 28th Sanandaj Division's 1st, 2d, and 3d Brigades, and the 25th Commando Brigade were also destroyed.

Earlier today, the spokesman said Iraqi forces had foiled an Iranian offensive in the Panjwin area yesterday.

Missile Strike on Tabriz

JN121142 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1133 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 12 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1500 [1100 GMT] today, with God's help, the Al-Husayn Missile Force carried out the 87th strike with Al-Husayn missiles on the city of Tabriz. Glory to the men of the military industries and Al-Husayn Missile Force. God helps us against the unjust clique.

[Dated] 12 April 1988

Jet, Helicopter Downing Denied

JN121445 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 12, INA—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian enemy allegations on "downing" an Iraqi CC7 [as received] jet and destroying a helicopter He described these allegations as baseless.

'88th Missile Strike' Dealt

JN121449 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1439 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 12 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help and the resolve of zealous men, at 1815 [1415 GMT] today, the 88th missile strike using the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Tehran.

May God bless your endeavors, you, O men of the military industries and the heroic Al-Husayn Missile Force. God be praised for the victory that He granted us over our enemies.

[Dated] 12 April 1988

Further on Deportation of 'Central Activists'

Names of 5 Gazans Reported

TA111727 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1630 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Five of the deportees are residents of the Gaza Strip, and all are central activists in radical Muslim organizations. Our correspondent Asaf Ashkenazi brings more details on the 5 Gaza deportees:

[Begin recording] The deportees are 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Udda, the Gaza Strip Islamic Jihad leader; Khalil Kuka, chairman of the Islamic Association; Muhammad Abu Shaqra, a resident of Khan Yunus and one of the heads of Al-Salafiyun, a radical Muslim movement; Muhammad Abu Samra, student at the Gaza Al-Azhar college, and a member of the Islamic Jihad; and Faraj Ahmad al-Khalil Khari, chairman of the Engineers Association and one of the senior Fatah activists in the Gaza Strip.

Quiet was maintained today in the Gaza Strip, with no incidents recorded so far. [end recording]

The other three deportees are residents of Judaea and Samaria.

More Details on Deportees

TA120923 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Apr 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Bradley Burston]

[Excerpts] The IDF expelled eight Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Lebanon yesterday, and issued deportation orders against 12 others, half of them from the village of Bayta where a girl from the settlement of Elon More was killed in a clash last week. [passage omitted]

The other six Palestinians issued deportation orders are accused of organizing recent protests and strikes; 'Adnan Dhalil, 37, of al-Birah, an alleged Communist activist; Ahmad Sulayman, 35, an alleged activist of the Nayf Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]; Ghassan al-Masri, 30, of Ramallah, an alleged Fatah organizer; Ahmad al-Dik, 48, a suspected Fatah activist; Siyad Rushdi Nahalla, of Gaza, suspected activist of the Islamic Jihad; and Jamal Zakut, 31, of Gaza, a suspected DFLP activist.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj called the deportations "a real reward to the settlers." He said the expulsions "came at the wrong time, will increase bitterness, definitely increase polarization and lead to a further deterioration of the situation. It is an attack on human rights."

Bradley Burston adds:

Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the powerful spiritual leader of Islamic fundamentalists in the territories, said last night that as a punishment, "deportation is tantamount to execution."

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, Yasin declared that "the Palestinian people, with the depth of its love of its homeland, cannot forgive such a measure."

Deposed Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa said last night that the deportations will only increase hatred toward Israel and the determination of Palestinians to continue resisting Israeli rule.

"This is a terribly regrettable step, one that complicates the peace process," Al-Shawwa said.

Arabs Facing Deportation Named

TA120523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] The coordinator of activities in the territories, Shmu'el Goren, says Israel will not hesitate to deport more Palestinian agitators, if necessary. The statement follows yesterday's deportation of eight Arab residents of the territories to south Lebanon, the first such expulsion since January.

Security forces are preparing for another round of violence in the wake of the deportations. Steve Rodan reports:

Whatever the results, military sources say the deportations have now restored the credibility of Israeli authorities. For weeks, senior security officials insisted that Israel had not ended its deportation policy, and yesterday authorities backed up their words. Eight residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza were expelled to south Lebanon. They included three Arabs who lost their appeals to the High Court, as well as five Palestinians who were to have been deported in January along with the other four residents expelled to south Lebanon.

But the wave of deportations may only be beginning. The army has issued deportation orders against 12 Arabs. They include the alleged organizers of the Palestinian unrest that began in December. One example: 'Adnan Muhammad Dhahil from Al-Birah, a leading figure in the Communist Party and an organizer of strikes and disturbances in the Ramallah area. Another example: Ahmad Muhammad Sulayman of Turmus 'Ayya, an activist for the DFLP terror group responsible for Bethlehem University. Military sources say he organized violent disturbances throughout Judaea and Samaria.

Six of those issued deportation orders are from Bayta, the Samarian village where Jewish hikers were attacked and one was killed last week. The army spokesman said all of the Bayta residents ordered expelled took part in the mob attack: Mahmud Bin-Jum'a allegedly grabbed the M-16 of Romem Aldubi, the armed escort of the

hikers; 'Ummar Sa'id Da'ud, the local head of the pro-PLO Al-Shabibah, forced the Jewish hikers to Bayta and attacked them; and the youngest of those ordered deported, Najah Dhikawat, aged 25, another Al-Shabibah leader, allegedly the instigator of the attack. Military sources say he incited Bayta villagers to attack the hikers, including one who held the camera. The camera was seized to prevent any photographs of the attackers. Another Bayta deportee is Tahir Hamil who, military sources say, attacked the hikers, fired stones from a slingshot, and shouted: Slaughter them.

The question the security officials are now asking is whether the new deportation orders will reignite the violence in the territories, the way they did in January. Yesterday afternoon a violent demonstration erupted in Kafr Ra'i near Janin, where two of the Arabs deported yesterday resided. At this point, military sources say they are not directly relating the riots to the news of the deportations, but they say that over the next few days the level of violence could rise.

3 Prospective Deportees Appeal

TA121210 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Apr 88

(Text] Three of the 12 residents of the territories against whom deportation orders were issued appealed to the special military committees this morning, demanding that the orders be cancelled. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that more deportees are expected to appeal.

Deportation Steps Simplified

TA121227 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Apr 88 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ori Nir, Re'uven Pedatzur, and Tzvi Bar'el]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Following instructions from Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the defense establishment is currently engaged in an extensive project aimed at simplifying the procedures necessary to implement the measures taken by the IDF against residents of the territories who have engaged in hostile activities. The measures include deportation, demolition of houses, and administrative detention. The intention is to reduce the waiting period between the decision and the execution.

Deportations are the central point of this issue. According to the present regulations, a potential deportee may appeal to the Advisory Committee [affiliated with the commanders of the IDF regional commands]. If his appeal is denied, he has the right to appeal to the High Court. These procedures take a long time and cause prolonged waiting periods between the decision to issue a deportation order and the actual deportation. Rabin expressed his views on the subject in the past, saying that the waiting period prior to the deportation must be reduced.

The state attorney and the military judge advocate are taking part in preparing the new regulations and in simplifying procedures. Defense sources have stressed that all future punitive measures will remain in the framework of the laws now existing in the territories and that there is no intention to change the laws themselves. The various punitive measures implemented in the territories are based on the Mandatory Emergency Defense Regulations dating to 1945. [passage omitted]

Leaders Comments on Deportations, World Reaction

Shamir Cites Security Reasons

TA120536 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says people around the world may not like the deportations, but we have to worry about our own security. Mr Shamir was addressing a ceremony marking the end of the Mimuna celebrations, and our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat spoke to him.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Porat] Last night Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir refused to comment on the possibility that additional punitive measures might be taken in the village of Bayta in the wake of last week's serious incident. In any event, he pointed out, yesterday's deportations and the pending deportation orders are a deterrent:

[Shamir] These measures must have an effect, and I hope they will discourage others and persuade them to mend their ways.

[Ben-Porat] Mr Shamir seems to make light of these measures. There is nothing new about them, he said. Similar steps have been taken in the past, and they proved to be a deterrent. At the same time, the prime minister realizes that such measures may arouse anger all over the world.

[Shamir] We know that other countries and people in other countries are not pleased about it, but we and not they must worry about our security.

[Ben-Porat] In the prime minister's opinion, the deportations will not have an effect on the continuation of the peace process in the Middle East. We take such measures only to quell terrorism, the prime minister concluded. [end recording]

Peres, Knesset Members React

TA111652 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says that the deportation of the eight inhabitants of the territories would have taken place sooner or later since it has gone through all the appropriate legal channels. Mr Peres said,

however, that the timing of the act may be connected with the recent incidents in Bayta. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch reports that Mr Peres spoke in the memorial service to the three victims of the hijacked bus in Beersheba. Mr Peres also said that we are not deporting inhabitants but rather agitators, and it has been proven that this is an effective form of punishment, although it should not be used excessively.

Here are some additional reactions: Uri Ari'el, chairman of the Council of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip Settlements says the decision on the deportation is too little, too late. Ari'el believes that the defense establishment should expel everyone defined as a PLO leader who is acting in broad daylight in East Jerusalem.

HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] protested the deportations and regards them as a surrender to the extremists. HADASH announced it is collecting 20 signatures of Knesset members [MK's] to convene the house for a special session.

MK Dedi Zucker of the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] protests the deportation orders issued against 12 inhabitants of the territories, among them 6 from Bayta, even before the investigation into the events in the village has ended. He claims that the defense minister cannot withstand the pressure of the settlers and Kahane's people, and that he wants to appease their yearning for revenge.

Mordekhay on Effect on Unrest

TA121729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Interview with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, by Sheli Yehimovitch on 12 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Yehimovitch] Yesterday eight inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza were expelled. Five of them were Gaza residents. What impact does the deportation have on your front?

[Mordekhay] In several places today there were a few attempts to disturb the peace. All in all, however, they were localized affairs. We were able to overcome them very quickly and I hope that this will not lead to any further incidents. The inhabitants of the Gaza Strip must realize that we will take all the measures at our disposal, including deportations, should the violations of order, the rioting, and the incitement continue.

[Yehimovitch] To what extent will the expulsions help calm down tempers, both in the short term and in the long term, if at all?

[Mordekhay] I presume that some people in the Gaza Strip will take advantage of the expulsions to stir up ferment. Yet in the long run, the agitators and the people spearheading the incitement should be aware of the fact that they are liable to be severely punished. I believe that expulsion from Israel is one of the heaviest penalties. Since it has been proved that we are not shying away from making use of expulsions, in the long run this will undoubtedly prevent people from carrying out illegal and futile acts.

Peres: 'Effective Move'

TA121747 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Miryam Kirschenbaum during Peres' tour of the Jordan Rift Valley on 12 April—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Peres] Jordan said it is in favor of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, adding that only those who recognize Resolutions 242 and 338 and completely renounce terrorism and violence can sit at the negotiating table. I do not think this is an accurate portrait of the PLO.

[Kirschenbaum] If you have to sit down only with PLO representatives, will you do that?

[Peres] I do not think the PLO is eligible to be counted as a negotiating partner. I do not think it is a possible, serious candidate.

[Kirschenbaum] On another matter, Mr Peres. You said the deportations were the right move at the right time. Do you support this move as a...

[Peres, interrupting] This is not exactly what I said, but let us leave that aside. What I said was that this is an effective move and that its timing can easily be understood.

[Kirschenbaum] Would you support such a move as a regular, standing penal measure?

[Peres] I hope this will not be necessary. This is my great hope. I feel bad about any man who is expelled, just as I grieve over spilled blood. But I know that the IDF would never, under any circumstances, have initiated such a move were it not for its need to react to events in the field. The best thing to do is to create a situation in which expulsions are no longer necessary. Such circumstances have existed before, and I think they were good for everyone concerned.

Rabin Views Unrest, Peace Process Interaction

TA121717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Report on address by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe at a 12 April seminar at Yad Tabenkin—recorded]

[Text] [Rabin] My concern is how to prevent the Arab-Israeli conflict from becoming a conflict between the Palestinians and Israel instead of one between an Arab state, or the Arab states, and Israel. This requires a certain peace policy coupled with the ability to overcome the problem of Palestinian terrorism, which we know how to do, and the problem of civilian violence in the territories.

[Menashe] Apart from the political goal, we must achieve two goals in the territories, says Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. They are: to bring about a calm, rather than provide a solution to the problem; and to make it possible for the local administrative system and the Civilian Administration to continue to function until a political solution is found.

[Rabin] The political solution should be handled as if the struggle did not exist; likewise, the struggle should be tackled irrespective of the presence or absence of a political process. This is the immediate problem. No magic formula or instant answer would work here. (?We should not regard) deportations as the solution to the problem. We employ three systems: first, the military system to arrest the violence. Yet it does not as of yet provide an answer to anything but the removal of the motivation for violence; second, the penal system in accordance with our rules, involving arrests, administrative detentions, trials—everything permissible by the law; and third, a system of administrative and economic measures.

[Menashe] A war today, says the defense minister, will not be easy or painless. The quantity of weapons and firepower have increased markedly, and yet there is no guarantee that we would not be forced to engage in war either if one is launched against us or if our vital interests are harmed. Minister Rabin underlined the importance of peace with Egypt for Israel's security, saying: It has a supreme impact on the Arab-Israeli balance of power from both the political and military aspects.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 12 April reports that Rabin added: "The actual number of detainees is higher than 4,800; this figure includes only those detained in military installations, while others are being held at police facilities."]

Frayj Interviewed on Unrest, Shultz Initiative

TA061354 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Apr 88 p A4

[Report on interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj by Shefi Gabay in Frayj's office; date not given]

[Text] In an interview with MA'ARIV, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj says that in view of the fact that so far all political initiatives have failed, what is needed now is a courageous Israeli peace initiative which will give Palestinians the right to live independently alongside the State of Israel. Those initiatives, however, should not be along the lines of the Allon Plan or the autonomy plan. According to Frayj, such initiatives work like aspirin and only provide temporary relief.

Frayj sits in his office in the luxurious municipality building in downtown Bethlehem and administers his paralyzed town as an absolute ruler. He says that the call on heads of local authorities in the territories to resign was wrong. According to him, Arab municipalities are the only official authorities currently handling the affairs of the population. "I served notice that the municipalities currently bear a serious responsibility for the supply of vital services to the inhabitants and, what is more, all of them are taking part in the uprising," he points out.

The mayor emphasizes that in the wake of the 60-year conflict between Arabs and Jews the time has now come for the two peoples to reach an understanding, particularly in view of the fact that many Palestinians are prepared to embrace the principle of "land for peace." According to him, the territory of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip represents only 18 percent of Palestine's land, "and there is no reason why you should not allow us to live in peace and security on such a small piece of land."

Frayj notes that for the first time in the history of Arab summits, the last summit held in Amman decided on Arab-Israeli negotiations through an international peace conference between the two peoples. Israel, however, did not react to that decision and, according to him, this was one of the reasons for the uprising. "The uprising is now going into its 120th day, and we have yet to hear one soothing statement by the Israeli Government. We are told that as long as the uprising continues there will be no negotiations. My question is: Has Israel ever agreed to conduct negotiations with us in the last 21 years? Of course, the answer is no."

The mayor foresees that the uprising will go on, with ups and downs in the scope of incidents, until a political solution is attained. He admits that inhabitants of refugee camps, and even city dwellers, are suffering a lot, but everybody knows they have got nothing to lose. "The radical military measures taken by Israel against the demonstrators only make the inhabitants of the territories close ranks. We know Israel has a very strong army, but a military solution cannot put an end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict." According to Frayj, there are two

purposes to the uprising: calling on Israel to effect a reconciliation between the two peoples, and terminating the occupation and the settlement drive.

Frayj refused to comment on Shultz' plan. According to him, Shultz came to persuade the governments of the region and not to speak to Palestinians like himself. "What I can say is that the plan Shultz brought lacks one important element: representation of the Palestinians by the PLO which is recognized as the sole representative of the Palestinian people." As he sees it, Jordan also is in a fragile political position in everything pertaining to Shultz' plan.

Replying to a question, Frayj said that despite the prolonged general strike life proceeds normally. "We Arabs make do with very little, even in terms of food. I promise you, and I am speaking for everybody, that we do not go hungry." According to him, there have been no thefts or local feuds recently, and this has been particularly evident after the Arab policemen resigned.

Shamir Comments on Jordanian Territorial Demands

TA121057 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today refused to comment on King Husayn's demands for the return of areas in the 'Arava region. The prime minister said he would discuss this issue with King Husayn when it is put forth in direct negotiations. Mr Shamir was speaking at Mizpe Ramon, where he will shortly be awarded the town's honorary citizenship. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch spoke to him.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I did not hear such a demand. One should not take every report very seriously. When we sit with King Husayn around the negotiating table, we will hear what he has to say.

[Yehimovitch] And what if there is a grain of truth in these reports? How will it affect the continuation of the political process?

[Shamir] It is too early to talk about the political process simply because such chance reports have been published. Many issues will be laid on the table once negotiations take place, and then we will discuss them. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peres 'Not Surprised'

TA121135 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said today that Israel has not received any Jordanian claims to sovereignty over areas in the 'Arava region and the Jordan Rift Valley. At the same time, Minister Peres said, one should not be frightened by such claims, because both sides present their maximal demands in negotiations. Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar was speaking to Shim'on Peres during a tour of settlements in the Jordan Rift Valley.

[Begin recording] [Peres] To the best of my knowledge, such demands have not been raised. I would not be surprised, however, if at the beginning of negotiations each side were to present its maximal demands. Those who do not have nerves of steel should not take part in negotiations. One should recall the speeches Al-Sadat made at the beginning of the negotiations with Israel.

We will also present our maximal demands. Therefore, at this point, attention should be paid to the nature of the negotiations. In this context, he more or less said that direct negotiations should be brought about and that an opening conference cannot have coercive powers.

[Ginosar] He also said that Jordan and Israel have nothing to discuss as far as Judaea and Samaria are concerned, and that we should discuss this matter with the Palestinians. What is your reaction to this statement?

[Peres] I do not know whether he made such a statement.

[Ginosar] In any event, this is what was reported.

[Peres] Well, reports vary. As far as I know, the Jordanians are the ones who are interested in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. If they are not interested, then they are not. Nobody is forcing them. To the best of my knowledge, which is not exactly based on newspaper reports, Jordan is interested in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. One must also bear in mind that different statements are aimed at different audiences. To a certain extent, one might say this is an appeal to the Palestinians. He is telling them: Do you want to negotiate with Israel? Please, do.

[Ginosar] And you do not think that such Jordanian statements shut the door on Israeli-Jordanian talks?

[Peres] Look, I can only speak for ourselves. In my opinion, a wise Israel is an Israel seen as leading the peace process. If others want to reject it, let them, but they should not try to include Israel in the rejectionist camp. After all, we will not know until we have been through it. Until then, we should be wise enough—and we have the power to do this—to present ourselves as the country leading a strategy of peace. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Gorbachev Call To Recognize Israel 'Significant'

JN101508 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 10 Apr 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]]

[Text] During a meeting in Moscow yesterday, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev stressed to Yasir 'Arafat that recognizing the State of Israel and taking into consieration Israel and its sovereignty is no less important than

recognizing the Palestinians' rights to achieve peace and good-neighbourliness in the Middle East. This news item was reported by TASS yesterday, which also said that Gorbachev called on the PLO to recognize the State of Israel.

Gorbachev's aforementioned statements are undoubtedly considered a tangible turning point in the declared Soviet stand toward the Middle East crisis. They are also considered an additional step made by the Kremlin toward Israel and toward ending its diplomatic estrangement with Israel.

On the other hand, Gorbachev's statements especially important since the Kremlin has deliberately circulated them on an international level through the official news agency TASS, in addition to the timing of these statements against the background of the continuous peace efforts by the United States in our region. There is reason to believe that Gorbachev's statements are significant and have several interpretations. They are not addressed only to Yasir 'Arafat, but to all Arab rulers, particularly to Damascus ruiers, who are considered the Kremlin's most important allies or clients in the Arab world.

The other prominent significance is the implicit announcement that the USSR is seriously and sincerely concerned about playing a positive role in the process of achieving peace in the Middle East. In addition to both aforementioned significant interpretations, Gorbachev's statements have an additional indicator of the possibility of reaching an understanding for joint cooperation and action between the two superpowers to achieve a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

If the two superpowers, the United States and the USSR, are getting closer to such understanding, then the question is what is the nature of the full understanding about which Yasir 'Arafat spoke when he told TASS yesterday that his meeting with Gorbachev resulted in full understanding?

Beilin on Jordanian Stand, Gorbachev's Statement

TA101747 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Interview with Yosi Beilin, prime minister's office political director general, by political correspondent Me'ir Kohen; date, place not given—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Kohen] Mr Beilin, regarding today's briefing by the secretary of state's envoy on the recent talks with Arab leaders, did you perceive from what you heard that there has been any hardening of the Jordanian stand?

[Beilin] I would not say that. I think that the most important aspect of the briefing is Mr Shultz' determination to proceed with his initiative. For instance, he instructed his special envoy, Wat Cluvarius, to remain in the Middle East this time, rather than join him in Europe. Cluvarius is to visit both Israel and Jordan and compose a series of ideas and proposals for Secretary Shultz' meeting with his counterpart Shevardnadze on 21 April. I feel that although Jordan has not given its official reply so far, it is extremely interested in the initiative, and that no door has yet been closed.

[Kohen] You say this despite Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i's statement of last weekend, in which he demanded an Israeli withdrawal to 1967 borders. How do you view this statement? Does the London agreement still exist?

[Beilin] Without referring to any specific agreements, I would say that we should remember that in a process such as this one, particularly when things are warming up and there are positions to maintain and views to exchange and so on, there is a difference between the formal level, which includes remarks made for outside consumption, and the talks Secretary Shultz is holding.

[Kohen] Mr Director-General, how do you view the Soviet leader' statement during his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat? Does this statement regarding the recognition of Israel reflect a shift in the Soviet Union's basic position to the problem?

[Beilin] I would not call it a shift in the basic position, but it is a very interesting statement. It reminds me of his previous meeting with President al-Asad, when at the banquet in Al-Asad's honor he chose to say: Our relations with Israel are not normal. We must arrive at more normal relations with Israel. This time too, when he receives Yasir 'Arafat...[changes thought] The very fact that he chose to say publicly: You must recognize Israel's existence, without going into the specifics of whether it is feasible, what Israel would do in such a contingency, and so on. I would say that the fact that the leader of the Soviet Union makes a point of saying these things in his meetings with Arab leaders proves that there is a certain line of thinking to the effect that the Soviet Union itself was wrong to have severed its diplomatic relations with us, and that something should be changed in the Arab-Israeli relations, as well as in the Soviet Union's attitude toward Israel.

[Kohen] In view of this statement, do you expect a breakthrough in the relations between Israel and the Soviet Union?

[Beilin] I would not expect a real breakthrough before the actual political process is initiated. I believe, however, that when the political process begins, and if an international conference is convened, we will find ourselves in a different relationship with the Soviet Union.

Baraq on Syria, Saudi Missiles, Iraqi Warfare

TA121158 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by defense correspondent]

[Text] Syria probably won't attack Israel this year, IDF Deputy Chief of General Staff Ehud Baraq told military reporters yesterday. However, he said he took a serious view of Saudi Arabia's new long-range missiles and the use of chemical warfare by the Iraqis.

Baraq said that although the Saudis weren't especially militant, their acquisition of the missiles may have other implications. Moreover, the use of chemical warfare by Iraq increases the risk that Arab countries may resort to it against Israel.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 12 April in a report by Shmu'el Tal on page twelve adds that Gen Baraq also noted that "the forces currently deployed in the territories are five times those deployed last year."]

Iran Reported Trying To Create PLO 'Substitute'

TA041058 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by ITIM and MENA]

[Text] AL-MUHARAR, an Arabic-language paper published in Paris, reports that Iran is trying to set up the "Islamic Organization for the Liberation of Palestine to serve as a substitute for the PLO." Several of 'Arafat's opponents have recently visited Tehran to discuss the matter. These include, among others: Shaykh Ibrahim al-Ri and Shaykh As'ad al-Hamimi. The two are Islamic Jihad leaders. Ahmad Jibril and Fatah-Revolutionary Council representatives have also visited Tehran. The Fatah-Revolutionary Council is headed by Sabri al-Banna (Abu Nidal).

Novik in Europe For Talks With 'Senior' Soviets

TA071021 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Apr 88 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, will leave for Europe on Sunday to hold discussions with senior Soviet officials about points in dispute concerning the international conference and to find out the reason for the delay in issuing visas to the Israeli consular delegation that is scheduled to depart for Moscow immediately after the Passover holiday. Novik will also meet with the political advisers of the British and French heads of state, and will brief them on U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' talks in Israel.

Ben-Aharon in London To Confer With Soviets

TA120920 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Apr 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, left for London Sunday evening on a mission on behalf of the prime minister. Ben-Aharon is to confer with a Soviet emissary in a bid to muster agreement for Shamir's position concerning a conference to be held under the auspices of the two major superpowers alone.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 12 April in a report on page one adds that Knesset Member Dan Meridor also departed for Vienna yesterday, noting that "the possibility should not be ruled out that the purpose of both missions is to hold secret political contacts."]

The MA'ARIV correspondent has learned that the decision on the mission was made after the prime minister became convinced that the Americans are determined to stick to the idea of an international conference, as demanded by the Arab countries and the Soviet Union.

Ben-Aharon was entrusted with the task of trying to persuade the Soviet representative that a conference that would only be attended by the United States and the Soviet Union on an equal footing would serve Soviet interests. As may be recalled, Shamir agreed to such a notion when Shultz proposed it in October 1987, but King Husayn rejected it. Ben-Aharon will try to persuade the Soviets to invite Prime Minister Shamir and King Husayn to open peace talks in Moscow during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit scheduled to be held there in May.

Officials in the prime minister's office have categorically denied this report, noting that Ben-Aharon went to Europe on a lecture tour on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal and that he will not hold any contacts whatsoever with either Soviet or Jordanian representatives.

Ben-Aharon is scheduled to return to Israel at the beginning of next week.

Delegation in Norway for Talks on Heavy Water

TA071055 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] An Israeli delegation is currently visiting Oslo, where it is holding talks with Norwegian official representatives on the subject of heavy water Norway had sold to Israel. Our reporter Eliyahu Zehavi reports that the Norwegian news agency has published a detailed report on the talks, yet no reaction on the matter could be obtained from the Israeli Embassy.

An Israeli source told the Norwegian news agency that Israel would not permit Norwegian inspectors to enter the Dimona reactor, but would instead allow them to inspect the heavy water in another location. Norwegian experts said, however, that in this way it would be impossible to ascertain the use to which the heavy water has been put.

Peres: No Intervention in Noriega Resignation

TA121020 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Apr 88 p 7

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Nitzan Horowitz, Ya'aqov Eylon, Drora Perl, AP]

[Excerpt] Yesterday Israel denied the reports regarding its intention to grant Panamanian ruler Manuel Noriega political asylum. Political elements in Jerusalem said that the NEWSWEEK reports are groundless, and that Israel has neither received a request from Noriega nor initiated any move pertaining to the ruler's future should he decide to leave his country.

In a conversation with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal yesterday, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres disclosed that he had been approached by foreign persons who asked him to appeal to Noriega to resign of his own free will and to leave Panama, but he decided not to intervene in this matter. [passage omitted]

Shahal Departs on Tour of Latin America

TA031234 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal left this evening for a tour of several Latin American countries. As will be recalled, Israel purchases coal and fuel from both Colombia and Mexico. Just before his departure, Minister Shahal told our correspondent Elihu Ben-On that he is carrying a political message to Argentina's President Raul Alfonsin.

[Begin Shahal recording] The Argentine president is a personal friend of Mr Peres, and Mr Peres is sending him a message through me. Certainly this meeting, in the framework of an official visit, will also revolve around bilateral relations between Israel and Argentina, Colombia, and Mexico as well as around political matters. I will explain Israel's position and will probably get wind of the moods in these countries with which we have close relations in every sphere, and whose political attitudes in such times are important. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peres Tours Settlements, Tries To 'Instill Calm'

TA121739 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres today promised the settlers in the Jordan Rift Valley that he has not changed his mind about the future of that part of the country. Mr Peres asked them to be patient in view of Arab attacks, which have reached them too. The foreign minister toured the Jordan Rift Valley settlements today, accompanied by our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar.

[Begin recording] [Ginosar] The Jordan Rift Valley settlers today conveyed to Peres their bitter feelings of insecurity, fear, and frustration. In all the settlements he toured, be they kibbutzim, moshavim, or urban centers, the foreign minister heard the settlers express their concern over the future and their apprehensions about current events. [passage omitted]

Shim'on Peres tried to instill calm in the settlers, telling them that the Labor Party's position on the future of this region remains unchanged:

[Peres] We will insist that no foreign army cross the Jordan River and that the Jordan River constitute our security border. I believe the best thing to do toward this end is to keep the settlements along the Jordan Rift Valley where they are. This is better than deploying the army there, particularly as an understanding exists between us and the Americans that no existing settlement will be uprooted.

[Ginosar] As for Arab attacks, Mr Peres asked the residents to be patient. He believes that the stone throwers are showing signs of fatigue.

[Peres] So they will throw more stones and hurl more Molotov cocktails. But where will all this lead? They have no leadership, no plan. No one will talk to them. They feel that the Arab countries' support for them is lukewarm and that they are showing more lip service than anything else. Where is all this leading?

[Ginosar] The bottom line of the visit is that the settlers mentioned a freeze and social and economic difficulties, fear of future political moves, and insecurity in daily affairs. The vice prime minister promised to help alleviate several of their day-to-day problems, and tried to set their minds at ease about the future. [end recording]

IDF Reports 1988 Work Plan, Number of Detainees

TA111558 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The conclusions of the investigation into the Bayta incident will be published in a few days, and then no one will doubt their veracity. These remarks were made today by Major General Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff, who presented the IDF's work plan for the next year. Our military affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David listened to Gen Baraq today.

[Begin recording] [Ben-David] [passage omitted] The emphasis of the IDF's work plan for 1988, which has been in effect since 1 April, is on the territories. The deputy chief of staff says: The IDF's goal is to restore calm in the territories, and we mean to achieve that end.

[Baraq] As for time, it can take months, and we will need patience and perseverance. I believe we will have both.

[Ben-David] This year the IDF will continue deploying large forces in the territories, while its methods will improve in accordance with the conclusions accumulated through experience. All in all, a more efficient deployment of forces is to be expected. A vast part of the operative tasks in the territories will be imposed on the reserve forces whose training will be reduced.

[Baraq] The combat reserve units will serve about 60 days, the commanders about 62 days. During a greater part of this period, between 80 and 90 percent, they will be stationed either in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, or in the north.

[Ben-David] That is for the territories. Here are some highlights of the IDF work plan's other parts: A significant increase in the budget for military build-up, to be obtained from moneys released by the cancellation of the Lavi project; and a reinforcement of troops along the Egyptian border following the infiltrations in that area.

Gen Baraq does not expect a war with Syria to break out. The IDF's power of deterrence has suffered no setback. The Syrian president knows that the IDF seen in the territories, is not the IDF he would meet in a comprehensive war. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT on 11 Apr in a report on Gen Baraq's remarks, adds: "Gen Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff, says that 4,800 residents of the territories have been detained since the beginning of the riots. Nine hundred are held on administrative detention orders, while 550 are imprisoned following trials."]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Gaza 'Leaders' Detained

TA111211 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The security forces in the Gaza Strip have recently detained 10 leaders of the uprising in the Gaza Strip, as well as the persons responsible for the publication of leaflets nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6. All the detainees are held in the Ansar-3 lockup facility in Qezi'ot. In the next few days they will be charged in the Gaza military court.

The detainees include members of Fatah, the DFLP, the PFLP, the communist party, and religious organizations.

1 Killed, 2 Wounded Near Janin

TA111906 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Here is a report we have just received: A youth from Kafr Ra'i in the Janin district was killed this afternoon, and two others were wounded, from shots fired by IDF soldiers. Military sources told our correspondent Victor Nahmias that an IDF patrol in the village was attacked by dozens of villagers who surrounded the soldiers and threw stones and bottles at them. When the soldiers were in danger several shots were fired toward the legs of the assailants. Later it was reported that one youth was killed and two others wounded.

Incidents by Al-Dukayshah Camp

TA121347 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Apr 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Dani Rubinstein, Yoram Levi, Dani Tzidqoni, and Yosi Melman]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yinon Alit-Man, chairman of the Efrat local council, was stoned and wounded near Al-Dukayshah. He complained to the Jerusalem Police yesterday morning that his windshield was smashed and he was injured while driving near the Al-Dukayshah refugee camp on Sunday night.

Several other inhabitants of Efrat also complained about various damage they suffered near the Al-Dukayshah refugee camp.

The curfew imposed Sunday night on Dayr al-Balah after a vehicle belonging to an Israeli couple from Qiryat Arba' was attacked last Tuesday was lifted. The entire Gaza Strip is now open except for the nightly curfew between 2200 and 0300 when people start going to work. School studies are taking place normally. The commercial strike in the main streets is continuing. [passage omitted]

Family Questions 'Suicide'

TA121142 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Relatives of Ibrahim Mahmud al-Ra'i, a security prisoner who committed suicide yesterday in Ayyalon prison, appealed today to the forensic investigator in the Ramla Magistrate Court requesting to be a party in the inquest about their son's death. Le'a Tzemel, the family's attorney, also demanded that a doctor appointed by the family be present during the autopsy. Al-Ra'i's family believes that he did not commit suicide, but died as a result of a misdeed committed by the Shin Bet or by people who wanted to get even with him.

Decline in Arab Solidarity

TA111020 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Israeli Arabs have recently cut down their activities in support of the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The public committees have stopped collecting food and funds, and last week saw only a few incidents in solidarity with the population of the territories. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar has more details:

[Begin recording] The movement of solidarity with the population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip that had encompassed all Arab villages in the Galilee and the Triangle has stopped operating as fast as it started, and under mysterious circumstances. All of a sudden, dozens of public committees disappeared. The collection of funds, food, and clothing for the refugee camps under curfew has stopped. Rallies have ceased to take place and women and students no longer stage marches to protest the government's policy toward their brethren.

Since Land Day 11 days ago, police stations in 'Iron, Nazareth, 'Akko, and Sakhnin have been registering fewer hostile incidents, and the stoning of cars driving on the busy Wadi 'Ara road has stopped. Also, very few stoning incidents have been noted on Galilee roads, which is a real change from what had been happening since the beginning of December when the uprising on the other side of the Green Line started.

Officials dealing with the Arab sector attribute this new development to two factors: first, the police have taken firm action against the rioters, with over 200 people, most of them young, being arrested or questioned so far; second, the leaders of the Arab population, starting with those affiliated with Zionist parties and ending with HADASH activists, did not encourage youngsters to throw stones or hoist PLO flags, and in many cases even condemned them openly.

Yet, this is not the end of the story. So-called extremist circles have not given up and are still trying to incite the Arab population to assist the city of Qalqilyah, using the excuse that the local population is dying of starvation due to the restrictions imposed on them by the IDF. At present, however, there appears to be no inclination to join the fund-raising campaign, certainly not with the speed and enthusiasm that we witnessed until 1 or 2 months ago. [end recording]

Shultz Tour Dispels 'Delusions' of Arab Unity

JN072043 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 7 Apr 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners, regardless of the fate of the U.S. peace plan, Shultz' current tour of our region brought about a number of realities which could have been known beforehand. However, the veracity of these realities has been reaffirmed. The first reality that has surfaced is that despite the smoke generated by the Arab propaganda machines, the concerned Arab states are not displaying unified stands on the nature and authorities of the proposed international conference or on the status of Arab representation in such a conference.

This reality was stressed by the U.S. secretary of state in a statement made to the Paris Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus the day before yesterday. In that statement, the secretary said that each Arab state has its own attitude and that the stands adopted by these states vary.

Second, it has become clear that the Arab states' emphasis or insistance on seeing the proposed international conference enjoy full authority is prompted and motivated by hopes that Israel might be cornered and exposed to international pressures with the aim of imposing unobjective and unrealistic, if not capitulatory, solutions.

Third, it has also become clear that there is no hope at all of seeing the PLO any time as a qualified party in any peace forum with Israel unless it unequivocally recognizes UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, unless it unequivocally recognizes Israel's right to exist, and unless it declares its relinquishment of violence and terrorism.

Fourth, the fourth reality that has been brought about and stressed by Shultz' tour of our region is that the U.S. secretary of state has killed any delusions that might have been harbored by any of the concerned Arab parties by his unequivocal reiteration during his visit to Damascus that Israel is in the Middle East to stay, that it can play a very constructive role in the region, that the United States is committed to support Israel, and that it does not have the intention of exerting pressure on Israel to push it toward making concessions. The U.S. secretary of state went on to say that Israel is a country surrounded by hostile states and that it has to defend itself. He continued: The United States will not ask Israel to do this or that. Otherwise, we will end our support for you in your endeavors to achieve security.

In light of the aforementioned realities which have been reiterated and reaffirmed during Shultz' current tour of our region, the best summation of the results of this tour was made by Shultz himself when he said: Nobody said that things are easy. They said that they are complicated. The question posed here is whether the parties concerned have become ready to think in a manner that is more flexible than the one shown previously, namely, to sit, negotiate, and talk, with each other and conclude agreements among each other.

Poll Finds Electorate 'Slight Shift' to Right

TA011939 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
1 Apr 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hanokh and Rafi Smith]

[Text] At the end of the third month since the beginning of the riots in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza there has been a slight shift to the right among Jewish voters.

These are the findings of a nationwide public opinion poll commissioned by DAVAR and conducted by the Smith Institute between 20 to 28 March on a representative sample of the adult Jewish population (including kibbutzim and moshavim).

About 1,200 men and women were polled nationwide. The Labor Party's edge over the Likud has been reduced to 5 percent, compared to 10 percent in December 1987 (just as the riots broke out). In March, the Labor Party received 35 percent of the votes while the Likud received 30 percent (a 4 percent rise compared to the poll of December 1987).

Another significant change is the 2-percent drop in support for the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], which scored 5 percent. There has been no change in support for parties close to the Labor Party, such as MAPAM and the Center Movement (Shinuy).

The Labor bloc has sustained a 3 percent drop and the Likud bloc has registered a 5 percent rise in the last 3 months. A comparison of the poll with the results of the 1984 Knesset elections shows that in March 1988 the entire Labor bloc registered the same support it scored in the last elections. In other words, the results of the poll are quite similar to the results of the 1984 elections, with one difference: in both blocs the small parties strengthened at the expense of the two major parties. In the Labor bloc, all parties (MAPAM and the Center Movement) with the exception of CRM fail to muster great support. In the Likud bloc, Tehiya and Tzomet together get 9 percent and Kahane gets 3 percent of the vote.

Which party would you vote for if elections to the Knesset were held today? The answers are quoted in percentage points.

Party or bloc	1984 election	Poll Jan 87	Poll Sep 87	Poll Dec 87	Poll Mar 87
Labor (plus Yahad)	39.0	38.0	37.0	36.0	35.0
Likud	36.0	27.0	27.0	26.0	30.0
Religious parties	10.5	10.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Tehiya	4.0	8.0	8.0	7.0	7.0
Tzomet	—	—	—	2.0	2.0
CRM	2.5	6.0	5.0	7.0	5.0
Shinuy (Center)	2.5	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0
KAKH	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.0
MAPAM	—	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
OMETZ	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0
Others	3.0	3.0	1.5	2.0	1.0
Undecided	—	4.0	6.0	4.5	4.0

Al-Rifa'i Briefs Arab Envoys on Shultz Talks

JN101207 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Amman—The prime minister met at the Prime Ministry this morning with ambassadors of the fraternal Arab states accredited to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the presence of the foreign minister.

The prime minister briefed the ambassadors on the results of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials.

The prime minister explained that during its talks with the U.S. secretary of state, Jordan emphasized the consistent principles to which it adheres in any move aimed at settling the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

He stressed that the principles from which Jordan will not deviate to attain a comprehensive peaceful settlement are:

The inadmissibility of occupying others' territories by war; an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories is the basis to settle the Arab- Israeli conflict and establish a just and lasting peace; a settlement of this conflict requires settling the Palestine question from all its aspects, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; a comprehensive settlement can only be attained through the convening of an effective international conference to be attended by the five permanent Security Council member states along with all parties to the conflict, including the PLO; and the principles of Security Council Resolution No 242 apply to all occupied Arab territories.

The prime minister also stressed that Jordan will not represent the Palestinian people at an international conference and will not negotiate a settlement of the Palestine question on behalf of the PLO.

However, he added, Jordan is ready to attend an international conference within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if the concerned parties agree to such an arrangement.

The prime minister focused on the importance of continued coordination among the fraternal Arab states to maintain unity of the Arab stand toward ali dangers and challenges posed to our Arab nation.

He said the Jordanian Government, at the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn, is interested in having all Arab governments acquainted with all the lastest developments.

The Arab ambassadors thanked the prime minister for his initiative.

Al-Rifa'i Urges Israel To Drop 'Flimsy Excuses'

JN110611 Amman Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 11 Apr 88

[From "News Reports"]

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i said on Monday Israel should drop its flimsy excuses and withdraw from all occupied Arab lands in return for peace. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i said without a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories—all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem—we are talking about surrender, not peace.

The settlement must not in any way reflect the weight of conquest; it is an exchange of territory for peace. Al-Rifa'i told REUTERS, in an interview, why should Israel claim a right to keep or annex any part of the occupied territories.

Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan, the Golan Heights from Syria, and the Gaza Strip from Egypt in 1967 Middle East war. It has since annexed the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem.

Al-Rifa'i said: Those flimsy excuses they gave about security are really not worth arguing about because security is not positions on the ground, especially in modern warfare with modern weapons and missiles. Anyway, security has to be mutual.

Jordan had told U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz what it considered the basic requirement for Middle East peace during his trip to the region last week.

Al-Rifa'i said: I believe the United States and Secretary Shultz now realize more than ever what the requirements for peace are and until those are met, it isn't going to be possible to have any progress.

His Majesty King Husayn set out Jordan's stands in a letter to Shultz saying an international conference under UN auspices was the only forum for peace talks and any settlement should allow the Palestinians their right to self-determination.

Israeli officials in Jerusalem said Shultz might return to the Middle East for a third peace shuttle soon after meeting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow on April 21. Israel's coalition government is split over the proposals. Shultz had praised His Majesty King Husayn for his exploratory approach.

Mr al-Rifa'i added: The international conference should not be a photo opportunity, just a mechanism to launch direct talks. It should not have power to veto agreement, but it must play a role in assisting the parties to arrive at a settlement.

He said the conference should reflect the moral weight of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. The Palestine Liberation Organization— PLO— must take part, though the PLO should decide how this should be done.

Jordan was ready to attend independently within a joint Arab delegation or in a Jordan-PLO delegation, he said. The way we are represented is not the issue. The issue is the presence of the necessary, essential parties to the conflict, and therefore, the PLO must be present. How it is to be represented is up to the PLO.

Mr al-Rifa'i said the 4-month-old uprising was in effect a popular revolution against occupation. Regardless of whether Israeli excesses and the brute force they are using to try to break Palestinian bones, blow up their homes, shoot them, arrest them will succeed in suppressing the uprising temporarily, it will erupt again and again, he said. As long as those conditions continue, the people will rise against them. There is as a new pattern of how to resist occupation. It is not going to stop.

Official Cited on Joint Delegation With PLO

JN111256 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1212 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] A Jordanian official asserted to our radio today that the PLO is the party entitled to negotiate Palestinian-Israeli issues within the proposed international conference in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The official also said Jordan at the same time does not object to Jordanian participation within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at an international conference if the concerned parties agree to this.

The official pointed out that the Jordanian side within the joint delegation will discuss Jordanian-Israeli issues to regain occupied Jordanian territories, allowing the Palestinian delegation to negotiate Palestinian-Israeli issues.

The official said Jordan has territories which Israel occupied in the wake of the Israeli-Arab war in 1967 in the Wadi al-'Arabah area south of the Dead Sea.

Israel also annexed the neutral zone in northern Jordan according to the 1948 partition. Amman will negotiate this at the conference, he added. According to unofficial sources, these territories have an area of approximately 20 square kilometers in the south and 5 square kilometers in the north near the point where the Jordan and Yarmuk Rivers meet.

The Jordanian official asserted that Amman made this stand clear to the U.S. secretary of state during his talks with Jordanian officials during his Middle East tour which ended last week.

It is noteworthy here that the Jordanian monarch handed the U.S. secretary of state a paper containing the principles to which Jordan adheres in any move for peace.

One of the points included in the paper stipulated that Jordan, as an independent, sovereign state, is ready to attend an international confrerence, along with the other concerned parties, and that Jordan will not represent the Palestinian people at such a conference and will not negotiate a settlement of the Palestine question on behalf of the PLO.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Amman in the next few days in response to an official Jordanian invitation to hold consultations on urgent issues.

Authorities Reportedly Release DFLP Official

JN081310 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] The DFLP today announced that the Jordanian authorities have released DFLP Political Bureau member Taysir al-Zibri, who was arrested a week ago.

The DFLP called for the release of all Palestinian and Arab detainees from Arab prisons to unify all Palestinian and Arab energies with the aim of developing the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

PSP Receives Palestinians Deported by Israel
NC111926 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] An AFP correspondent has reported that the Palestinians deported by Israel to Lebanon today arrived in Rashayya this evening, where they were received by the PSP [Progressive Socialist Party].

Foreign Ministry Protests to Security Council
NC121414 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] The Lebanese Foreign Ministry has cabled Lebanon's UN Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, asking him to lodge a protest against Israel with the Security Council for its deportation of eight Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories.

The Foreign Ministry termed the deportation an aggression against Lebanon's sovereignty and a violation of international laws.

Higgins Threatened If Kuwaiti Plane Stormed
NC112057 Paris AFP in English 2053 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Beirut, April 11 (AFP)—The kidnappers of an American United Nations officer held hostage in Lebanon threatened here Monday to kill him if a hijacked Kuwait Airways plane in Cyprus were stormed.

The Organization of the Oppressed of the Earth, which has claimed the February 17 abduction of Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, made the threat in a typewritten Arabic communique delivered to a Western news agency here.

"We will put the rope around the neck of the American agent, Colonel William Higgins, if any party whatsoever attempts to storm the airplane," said the communique, which was not accompanied by a photo or any other proof.

The organization had delivered a vidoeocassette showing Lt. Col. Higgins to a Western news agency here a few days after the officer, assigned to the United Nations Truce Surveillance Organization (UNTSO) was kidnapped in South Lebanon.

On Sunday night, the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group threatened to kill the U.S. and French hostages it holds in Lebanon if the Boeing 747 were stormed.

The plane, which was hijacked April 5 to Mashhad, northeast Iran, has been at Larnaca airport in southeast Cyprus since Friday night.

Since then, the hijackers have killed two hostages and thrown them onto the tarmac, including one Monday, when their demand for refueling was not met.

Amal Says Iranian Ambassador Involved in Clashes
NC120655 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] A security official in the Amal Movement has accused Ahmad Dastmalchian, the Iranian ambassador to Lebanon, of personally supervising recent clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, and of giving personal instructions to Hizballah cadres.

The source pointed out that the Movement's listening sets have monitored radio communications by the Iranian ambassador. In these communications, the ambassador asked the Revolutionary Guards to lead Hizballah in battle at Al-Ghaziyah.

Israeli Planes Overfly Sidon, Nearby Camps
NC111401 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes have flown over Sidon and the nearby camps, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Planes Break Sound Barrier
NC121213 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier while flying in Lebanese airspace just before 1330 today.

'Fierce' Fighting Between Resistance, Israelis
NC121210 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] According to reports from the resisting south, fierce confrontations have been raging between Lebanese resistance groups and Israeli occupation forces at the Sribbin junction since 1000 today. Various types of machineguns and rockets are being used in the fighting.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Cables Ziaul Haq on 10 Apr Explosion

LD111636 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Apr 88

["Text" of message from President Najibullah to Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan; date not specified]

[Text] Your Excellency Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

Mr President, allow me, on behalf of the people of the Republic of Afghanistan, to express sympathy on the occasion of the tragic incident of 10 April of the current year, in our neighboring country, Pakistan. It has inflicted loss of life and material damage and has caused profound sorrow for me and the Muslim people of the Republic of Afghanistan.

I convey our deepest condolences to the families which have suffered through this tragic incident, and to all peoples of the Republic of Pakistan.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

BAKHTAR Expresses 'Wrath' on Plane Downing

LD120833 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0455 GM 11 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 11, BAKHTAR—An Afghan passenger plane, Antonov-26 which was on a domestic flight from Meymaneh city to Mazar-e Sharif, centre of Balkh Province was shot down on Sunday as a result of which twenty three passengers including two children, and eight women and six crew were martyred, says the BIA statement.

The plane was shot down by a ground to air rocket made in West at a time when the people of Afghanistan are at the threshold of signing Geneva accords and waiting impatiently for ensuring of peace in Afghanistan and the region, the statement adds.

This crime of the extremists proved once again that they are against establishment of peace and security in the country. By carrying out such subversive and inhumane acts, the extremists wish to disturb the peaceful life of the people, the statement notes.

The peace-loving people of Afghanistan and the popular sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan feel themselves committed to follow the humane policy of national reconciliation in the country. All the statements as well as latest joint Afghan-Soviet statement is manifestation of the fact that both sides do their best to ensure peace and security in the region. The people and state of the Republic of Afghanistan express their deep wrath and indignation to this hostile action.

The statement calls on all peace-loving Afghan people to be aware and not let the black forces to disturb their normal and peaceful life.

Recent Mujahidin Combat Successes Reported

Missiles Hit Defense Ministry

LD120822 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 12, IRNA—Afghan mujahidin fired six missiles into Defence Ministry building in Kabul on March 31 and April 2, inflicting heavy damage on it.

Eye witnesses have reportedly said that some 30 Soviet military advisors and soldiers were killed and many others wounded in the attacks which caused fire in the building for 45 minutes.

Damage Herat-Qandahar Pipeline

LD092051 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 9, IRNA—Afghan mujahidin attacked positions of the occupying forces in Tizni last week setting six trucks and personnel carriers afire and taking eight Soviets captive.

The Afghan Muslims also destroyed parts of the Afghanistan pipeline which supplies fuel for the Shindand air base, at the Herat-Qandahar intersection, western Afghanistan.

Destroy Qandahar Radio, TV

BK121024 Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 12 (AFP)—Afghan rebels fighting the pro-Soviet Kabul regime have knocked out Qandahar's radio and television stations, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

The mujahidin knocked out the stations located in the Qandahar Hotel late last month with two rockets, after several previous attacks failed, they said.

There has been heavy fighting around Qandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city, in the past few weeks and dead and wounded government troops have been arriving in the capital Kabul, they added.

"Qandahar will be among the first places falling to the mujahidin once the Soviets leave," they said, referring to an Afghan peace settlement expected to be signed in Geneva this week which provides for a Soviet troop withdrawal.

Mujahidin flags were flying in several areas of the city as the rebels appeared to have gained the upper hand in the region, the diplomats said.

At the end of March, guerrillas attacked the Shahr-e Nau District where the city and provincial administration offices are situated, they said.

The Interior Ministry's armed police, the Sarandoy, had also clashed with the secret service KHAD, they said quoting residents, which corroborated earlier reports of factional fighting in the city between the Khalqi and Parchami groups in the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Heavy fighting was also reported in Lowgar Province, they said, adding that the guerrillas were further consolidating their positions in the eastern provinces of Paktia, Konarha and Nangarhar.

Zabihullah Expresses Support for Geneva Accords
LD120812 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 11, BAKHTAR—Joint Afghan-Soviet statement of April 7th paved the ground for signing the Geneva accords and that for the solution of the situation around Afghanistan, says General Zabihullah Ziarmal, president of Army political affairs to a military correspondent of BAKHTAR.

Joint Afghan-Soviet statement, he added, gave an impetus to the signing of Geneva accords. The statement is a reliable guarantee for signing Geneva accords. The statement once again made it clear that the final status of Afghanistan among other states will be determined by the Afghans themselves and nobody but them.

The Soviet Union reaffirmed its support for President Najibullah's statement on Afghanistan as an independent, non-aligned and neutral state. It proceeds from the premise that the territory of that country or any of its part will never be used for purposes hostile to its neighbours with regard to which Afghanistan will continue a policy of good neighbourly relation and cooperation.

This equally applies to the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

General Zabihullah Ziarmal added that according to the recent joint statement the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan will act in accordance with the statements published on February 8, 1988.

The signing of Geneva accords, General Ziarmal pointed out, is a good indicative to the success of foreign policies of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Khalis on Mujahidin Alliance, Soviet Withdrawal
JN311324 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Mar 88 p 15

[Interview with Yunis Khalis, former leader of the seven-party alliance of mujahidin, by Talib al-Shahin; date, place not given]

[Text] The resignation of Yunis Khalis from his post as leader of the Afghan seven-party alliance of mujahidin which combines the seven parties representing the Afghan people and controlling all military activity inside Afghanistan, has had a great repercussion in the news media and political observers said that the resignation would cause a major split within the alliance.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD held this interview with Khalis to learn the reasons behind his resignation and also his opinion on current developments in Afganistan.

[Al-Shahin] What effect did your resignation have on the work of the Afghan alliance?

[Khalis] My resignation did not have any effect on the mujahidin alliance. The alliance is carrying out its tasks and holding its meetings in an ordinary manner. Its meetings are held at the alliance's headquarters as scheduled without any delay.

The brother leaders of the parties have agreed that they will take turns serving as official spokesmen of the alliance for a period of 3 months. Therefore, since it is Eng Hikmatyar's turn, he has assumed the leadership of the alliance for the next 3 months in the normal manner.

[Al-Shahin] What is the truth about the differences among you?

[Khalis] Actually, there is bound to be differences of opinion. It is logical for two persons to disagree on certain issues. What about struggle organizations which are constantly under pressure and voicing different opinions reflecting different interests? There are bound to be differences of opinion, and therefore differences.

But this does not mean that there is a basic dispute preventing the unification of ranks. It is sufficient that everyone is fighting for the establishment of an Islamic state in Afghanistan.

[Al-Shahin] What is your assessment of the current phase?

[Khalis] The Afghan struggle is passing through the most critical phase since the so-called superpowers have agreed to reap the fruits of this blessed struggle, which is entering its 9th year since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

When these two superpowers discovered that the Afghan mujahidin of all inclinations were bound to succeed, that Afghanistan would belong to them alone, and that the establishment of an Islamic state in Afghanistan would affect the interests of the East and West in this region, they decided on a mutually beneficial deal which they call "the political solution."

To us, however, it is no more than a deception through which they want to divide our ranks and remove us from the real arena of fruitful action, namely, the armed struggle.

The Soviet announcement to withdraw from Afghanistan on the condition that Pakistan agrees to the provisions of the Geneva accords, which is neither in Pakistan's, nor in the mujahidin's interests, is also part of this "political solution" deception. We do not believe that the Soviets will pull out as easily as some people imagine.

Even if for the sake of argument we agree that the Soviets will indeed pull out, they would definitely remain at least in the northern provinces whose mountains are rich in minerals and petroleum and whose plains are rich in agricultural produce.

Furthermore, the northern provinces of Afghanistan constitute a security belt for the Islamic republics in the USSR. Therefore, we believe and affirm that the Soviets will not leave unless we continue the struggle against them. And, this is what we intend to do, God willihg. The political tricks you witness today and the intensive pressure which is being exerted to make us accept them are not new.

They have been going on since the beginning of the struggle when the Soviets felt that they were facing a formidable force. These tricks have been going on since that time with the collaboration of Najibullah, Amin and his predecessors in Kabul. No matter how good they sound, these tricks are actually aimed at undermining years of struggle to establish an Islamic government.

These tricks have taken different forms. They first called for a coalition government combining the mujahidin and the communists. Then they called for the return of Zahir Shah. And recently, they called for a neutral government. Thank God, the Muslim Afghan people know exactly the goals of these moves. Therefore, they have all failed.

We are fully confident that the next phase will depend on our stands and actions. If we act properly, God will help and we will see the end of these cunning negotiations and solutions. But if we run after wordly affairs, seats of government, and money, the struggle will take a different course and destiny. Therefore, what we need is more sincerity, piety, and asceticism and we must place God's pleasure above all other objectives.

For our part, we declare that we will continue our struggle without bending to any influence until God fulfills his will. We know that many conspiracies are being concocted against the jihad and the mujahidin. However, we trust in God's words: Until the apostles give up hope of their people and come to think that they are treated as liars, their help reaches us. [Koranic verse]

[Al-Shahin] What is your stand on the Geneva conference?

[Khalis] We, in the name of the mujahidin alliance, have frequently declared our rejection of these talks and of any other talks to which we are not a primary party. I believe that within the current framework, the Geneva talks are not related to the Afghan issue.

Anyone who wants to resolve a problem will sit with its original parties, whereas the Geneva talks are being held between the Pakistani and Kabul governments, both of which are not primary parties to the problem.

Let everyone know that the Geneva talks are only Soviet-U.S. attempts to achieve their own interests without paying attention to the Afghan people's interests.

The Americans seek the Soviets' withdrawal without paying attention to the form of government that will be established. Likewise, the Soviets do not want the establishment of an Islamic government following their withdrawal because they realize its danger to them. Hence they seek the establishment of a weak government that will not be a thorn in their throats in the future.

The most dangerous thing now is that some brothers in the mujahidin alliance have agreed to dispatch delegates to Geneva to attend these negotiations. This will be a pretext for enemies of the mujahidin to assert that by this behavior we agree on the Geneva negotiations. Undoubtedly, this seems to undermine what we agreed upon previously.

At any rate, I wish my brothers, who believe that going to Geneva will be in favor of the mujahidin, every success in their steps and pray to God to protect them from the enemies' malice. Here, I would like to reaffirm an important issue: The Soviets, by insisting on the Geneva talks and using so-called peaceful means, aim to achieve objectives they cannot not achieved by military force.

Therefore, the Soviets are now exerting various pressures to introduce the mujahidin into the game of peaceful solutions. Even the issue of withdrawal, which the Soviets mention occasionally, is only an imaginary maneuver designed to realize political objectives. Moreover, the partial Soviet withdrawal declared in July 1986 was part of these maneuvers because all the Soviets did was replace troops.

In addition, there are now 130,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan along with a great deal of hardware. The Soviets frequently strike at some positions from within the Soviet Union. Soviet planes taking off from military airports in the Soviet Union bomb mujahidin positions and return to base.

[Al-Shahin] What will be your stand toward Pakistan if it signs the Geneva resolutions?

[Khalis] Whether or not Pakistan signs them we appreciate its stands toward us during the past years. We also appreciate its stand now because we realize that Pakistan is subjected to many pressures by all parties to force it to attend the Geneva negotiations.

Since we realize how strong these pressures are, we cannot impose a binding stand on Pakistan that we may adopt. However, we assert that whether Pakistan agrees to the Geneva resolutions this will not influence our struggle because Pakistan will not impose its stand on us. This is due to the fact that we are the ones who will determine our fate and struggle in the coming phase. We have chosen to continue our struggle until an Islamic rule is established in Afghanistan and until Afghanistan is liberated from the last Soviet soldier.

I do not believe that Pakistan will pressure us to leave its territory even if it signs the Geneva agreement. If this happens, we will transfer our offices to Afghanistan and continue our struggle from there. This will not be a difficult task because, as I said earlier, we control 80 percent of Afghan territory. This enables us to enjoy a psychological reassurance and to continued an armed struggle regardless of where we launch offensives from.

PDPA's Kawiani Receives Bulgarian Official

LD092333 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] In his office this morning Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, met with Filip Markov, head of the delegation of the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Soviet Red Cross President, Delegation Visit

Hold Talks With Keshtmand

LD092320 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand met today with Dr Dmitriy Venediktov, president of the Executive Committee of the Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, and the head of a delegation visiting Kabul on a working visit.

Their talks were held in the headquarters of the Council of Ministers in a friendly atmosphere. They discussed the development of cooperation between the Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and the Afghan Red Crescent. Surayah, general director of the Afghan Red Crescent, and members of the visiting delegation were present at the meeting.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

LD092359 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Dr Dmitriy Venediktov, president of the Executive Committee of Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, met today with Deputy Prime Minister 'Abdul Hamid Muhtat. The president of the Afghan Red Crescent was also present. Talks were conducted on cooperation between the Afghan Red Crescent and the Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

According to another report, a cooperation protocol between the Afghan Red Crescent and Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent societies was signed in Kabul today.

The protocol will develop cooperation in the fields of health care, the alleviation of human disasters, help for the sick, the development of preventive medicine studies, donating blood, and the education of cadres and Red Crescent cadres and activists.

The protocol was signed on the Afghan side by Surayah, president of the Afghan Red Crescent, and on the Soviet side by Dr Dmitriy Venediktov, Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent president.

Delegation Departs 11 Apr

LD110848 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 10, BAKHTAR—The delegation of the Union of the Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent of the USSR, headed by Dmitriy Venediktov, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Union left here for home today.

At the Kabul International Airport the guest delegation was seen off by Surayah, chairperson of the Afghan Red Crescent Society and other officials of the society.

Reportage on National Assembly Elections

LD110634 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 10, BAKHTAR—Elections to the National Assembly entered its sixth day. Tens of thousands of people went today to polls to vote for the candidates to the House of Representatives and Senate. Over 32,137 voters went to their respective polling stations in Kabul city alone and cast their ballots for their desired candidates.

In the past five days 189,391 persons went to the polling stations in Kabul city and voted for their desired candidates. Included among the voters were those who have recently returned home availing of the policy of national reconciliation.

Despite the disturbances created by the extremists, elections went on successfully. On April 9 alone, three thousand persons from opposition went to the polling stations in Qandahar Province and cast their vote to their desired candidates. Today, April 10, 1,156 persons from opposition went to the polling stations and voted for their desired candidates in the same province.

In the past four days over 758,700 of our countrymen went to polls in the capital and provinces and voted for their desired candidates.

Election Commission Meets

LD100412 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] This afternoon at the Delkoshah Palace, the Presidential office, a regular session of the Central Election Commission was convened on National Assembly elections.

This session was chaired by Abdurrahim Hatif, chairman of the Central Election Commission. A report on actions by the working group of the Central Election Commission was fully assessed.

The commission pointed out that during the 5 days of the National Assembly elections, written and verbal complaints and reports of violations of the election law, complaints regarding reimbursements for transportation and election costs, and questions about the creation of election constituencies have reached the working groups of the Central Election Commission from the capital and provinces.

These questions have been regularly and practically solved by the commission's working group, and specific steps have been taken to extend necessary assistance to the provincial, regional, and polling station's election commissions.

The commission considered a series of proposals by the Central Election Commission working group and made the necessary decisions in this respect.

A spokesman for the Central Election Commission told BIA that names of those voters that had not been listed prior to the election have been listed by the respective commissions during the election, enabling them to vote for their desired candidates. This demonstrates the people's interest in the election process, and their interest in using their legal and natural rights.

The source added that at the polling stations the necessary steps were being taken to receive voters, and the number of voters is increasing every day.

Opposition Participation Noted

LD120924 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0449 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 11, BAKHTAR—Elections to both houses of National Assembly entered its seventh day. Tens of thousands of people including the opposition went to the polling stations and voted for their desired candidates.

Among the masses of voters a number of opposition forces voluntarily took part in electing their desired candidates and gave their support to this historic event in the country. Likewise, a large number of returneees participated in the election work and voiced their support to elections to the National Assembly aimed at securing peace in the country.

One hundred fifty armed opposition reported to the constituency of Mir Bacheh Kowt district in Kabul Province and cast their ballots to their desired candidates. Similarly, 6,180 persons from the opposition which also included 3,150 armed persons participated, on April 10, en elections in the districts of Qarah Bagh, Mir Bacheh Kowt and Shakar Darreh of Kabul Province and demonstrated their peaceful determination in practice.

From the beginning of elections to date, 229,880 persons reported to the polling stations in Kabul city out of which today alone 40,489 elegible voters reported to elections constituencies of 26 districts of Kabul city and voted to their desired candidates.

In provinces, 440 persons belonging to opposition took part in elections in Enjil and Mil-e Kurki district of Herat Province today and voted to their candidates in a free and democratic atmosphere.

During the past six days of election, 2,966 persons from opposition voted for their desired candidates to National Assembly in Baghlan Province. In Helmand Province, over 600 persons from opposition voted for their desired candidates during this period.

An atmosphere of sincerity and freedom existed in all election constituencies.

Najibullah Message to Power Line Workers

LD110258 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Apr 88

[President Najibullah's message to workers involved in returning to operation the Kajaki-Lashkargah-Qandahar electric power line—date and place of issuance not given; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of the God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear friends: Workers and experts in the Ministry of Electricity are carrying out an important task

in renovating the Kajaki-Lashkar Gah-Qandahar transmission line and the electrification of villages with the assistance of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

You have had great successes in the heroic work of renovating the power line in the area of Lashkar Gah, Torghi, and Rud-e Koshk-e Nakhod. You have achieved high results in your work and have made the line almost as good as new. In finishing this work you have created the real opportunity for electric power to reach the city of Lashkar Gah and to villages along the line.

I ask you to carry out your work persistently and to complete the renovation of most of the transmission line in the near future. This will be your gift to the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution.

The personnel of the army, police, state security, and work division ensure the security of workers and the satisfactory safety of the electric power line.

Dear workers and experts, your heroic work will be rewarded meritoriously, and victory is from God.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Law on State Employees Enforced Effective 11 Apr

LD120933 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 11, BAKHTAR—Law of the state employees of the Republic of Afghanistan has been enforced today. Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, issued a decree in regard to the law of the state employees as well.

The law has been approved in nine chapters and seventy two articles.

The law has provided many advantages and facilities for the state employees.

Eight 'Terrorists' Captured in Balkh Province

LD102130 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] An extremist band which intended to disrupt the peaceful life of Shur Tappeh District, Balkh Province was recently captured along with their weapons by the country's armed forces. The report adds that the toiling people of Tash Gozar in Shur Tappeh District, after hearing the intentions of these terrorists, asked the armed forces to capture the professional criminals and block their crime.

The Armed Forces acted on this request and, as a result, eight terrorists were captured. A quantity of weapons, ammunition, and hand grenades were seized from them.

Bangladesh

Ershad Expresses Shock Over Blasts, Hijacking

BK111318 Dhaka General Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has expressed his deep shock at the loss of lives in the explosion in an army ammunition dump in Pakistan. In a message to President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan, President Ershad conveyed his deepest condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

The Bangladesh president has also expressed his shock and dismay over the hijacking of the Kuwaiti Airways Boeing and the execution of 1 of the 50 passengers of the aircraft by the hijackers at Larnaca in Cyprus. [passage omitted]

Government Position on State Religion Clarified

BK081308 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] The Bangladesh Government has clarified its position on the question of declaration of Islam as state religion to dismiss misgivings in certain quarters.

A government statement issued in Dhaka says religious and ethnic minorities in Bangladesh have been living in perfect communal harmony and peace.

Over 86 percent of the population in Bangladesh are Muslims, and, as such, it is quite consistent with the reality to make Islam as the state religion. The statement says the Bangladesh Government decision should cause no unnecessary misgivings anywhere.

It also points out that it is not uncommon for states to adopt one religion or another, in conformity with basic facts of those countries, as their state or official religion. Nepal, Thailand, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Malaysia are cases in point where minorities are living in peace with communal harmony.

The statement further says the Bangladesh Government has taken manifold steps, like the Hindu Welfare Trust, for the benefits of the minorities.

AFP: Opposition To Launch 'Final Movement'

BK090916 Hong Kong AFP in English 0910 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Dhaka, April 9 (AFP)—Bangladeshi opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia has threatened to launch a "final movement" to oust President Hussain Mohammad Ershad if he refuses to resign by next month, newspapers here said Saturday.

She urged Mr. Ershad to respond to the opposition call by the end of the post-Ramadan festival of Eid in mid-May, "otherwise, the opposition would launch a relentless and final movement" to get him out, the dailies said.

Begum Zia, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chief, has begun holding public rallies and meetings in western Bangladesh after a five-month-long boycott campaign by her seven-party opposition alliance failed to stop last month's parliamentary polls.

The ruling Jatiya Party has said the campaign by the alliance, which Mrs. Zia also heads, had failed and that the movement existed only in big cities.

Abbas Ali Khan, leader of the rightwing Jamiyat-i Islami, told a party meeting here Friday that the campaign had not failed and the opposition will continue until Mr. Ershad hands over power to a caretaker government.

Mr. Ershad led a bloodless military coup in 1982, took over the presidency the next year and was elected in 1986. On Wednesday, the opposition said it would launch a dawn-to-dusk general strike to coincide with the still-to-be announced Parliament opening.

Mrs. Zia, the widow of late President Ziaur Rahman, urged the people at a huge public meeting in the handloom town of Chatmohar to be ready for "greater sacrifices and sufferings", the Bengali daily SANGBAD said.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, leader of the opposition Awami League, has also rallied its supporters by addressing several meetings in western Rajshahi District.

Government Lifts Ban on Opposition Paper

BK110540 Hong Kong AFP in English 0535 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Dhaka, April 11 (AFP)—Bangladesh authorities say they have lifted a ban on an opposition daily whose publication was suspended for more than 70 days. Information Minister Mahbubur Rahman said the ban on DAINIK KHABAR lifted Sunday, was lifted in keeping with government respect for freedom of the press.

The newspaper was banned on January 30 for printing a map making Bangladesh look like part of India although it later apologised for the mistake.

Government bans imposed last year continue to affect at least one major opposition daily, BANGLAR BANI, and nearly half a dozen weeklies.

India

Mob on Rampage in Srinagar After Pakistan Blast

BK120308 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] A UNI report from Srinagar [Kashmir] says 2 persons were killed and 100 injured when police opened fire to disperse an unruly mob indulging in arson and looting in Lal Chowk, Burcha Chowk, Mehsoma, and Gaokadal areas of the city last evening. The injured include 70 policemen. The mob had been on the rampage since morning, stoning vehicles and forcing the shopkeepers to down their shutters. Several shops were also set on fire.

The mob tried to force a hartal [strike] in the area in view of the ammunition dump tragedy in Pakistan.

Gandhi Greets PRC's Li Peng on Election

BK100552 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has extended warm felicitations to Mr Li Peng on his election as the premier of the People's Republic of China.

In his message to Mr Peng, he said India is looking forward with confidence to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister To Stopover in Ho Chi Minh City

OW111145 Tokyo KYODO in English 1121 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] New Delhi, April 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Monday India has no intention of interfering in Afghanistan after an Afghan peace agreement is signed.

Gandhi made the statement in an interview with a group of Japanese reporters at the Indian Parliament Building ahead of his visit to Japan Thursday through Friday at the invitation of the Japanese Government.

The Soviet Union will start pulling out its estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan May 15 under a settlement reached in Geneva last week by Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Gandhi said his country has been trying to normalize the situation in Afghanistan since 1980. "We feel that stability in Afghanistan is essential in the region and that affects us," he said. "They (Afghans) will sort out their problems when other people needn't interfere or intervene."

The nine-year-old conflict in Afghanistan has killed one million Afghans and left five million more as refugees in neighboring Pakistan and Iran.

Gandhi said despite pressure from Pakistan, India is doing its best to maintain its current nonnuclear policy. He said there is no contradiction between his country's trust in disarmament, speaking out and working for disarmament, and renovating its own military structure.

"Let me make it very clear we do not have a nuclear program. We are not building nuclear weapons," he said. "Although with some of our neighbor's program, it is putting a lot of pressure on us, we believe that India's stand on nuclear issues has been very principled and we'll do our best not to shift from that position," Gandhi said.

He said India will jointly continue its efforts for disarmament through a session of the U.N. General Assembly on disarmament in late June along with Sweden and other countries.

Gandhi said even though India and the United States have many historical problems, "We have to build confidence."

While in Tokyo, Gandhi is scheduled to meet Crown Prince Akihito, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and other Japanese leaders as well as to attend a six-month-long Indian festival set to open Friday.

Gandhi, who will be accompanied to Tokyo [by] his wife, said the Indian festival will not only strengthen cultural relations between the two countries but also further expand bilateral relations in general.

On his way home, Gandhi will stop over in Ho Chi Minh City for talks with Vietnamese leaders on the Kampuchean conflict and other issues, Indian officials said.

Gandhi Comments on Nuclear Issue, Afghanistan

BK120238 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has reiterated India's adherence to disarmament and said it is not manufacturing nuclear weapons despite pressures due to Pakistan's weapons-oriented nuclear policy.

In an interview to Japanese journalists on the occasion of his visit to Tokyo on Thursday, he said India stands by its principled position on nuclear issue and is doing everything possible to keep it unchanged.

In reply to a question, Mr Gandhi said India believes that stability in Afghanistan has great importance for the entire region.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Arms to Pakistan

BK091528 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Political commentary by Rai Singh: "U.S. Defense Secretary Carlucci's Visit"]

[Text] Let it be stated at the outset that the recognition of India's constructive role in Afghanistan, as a South Asian regional power, by U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci at a press conference in New Delhi on 6 April indicated that India was back in the reckoning of the U.S. policymakers.

It also indicated that Washington wanted India to play a role in the process of overcoming subsequent difficulties, particularly in ensuring the right of self-determination for the Afghan people, as Carlucci put it. This was a tricky offer in as much as India would have to take into account the deteriorating security environment in South and Southwest Asia and its resources and commitments, especially in Sri Lanka, before taking up this challenging task.

This also does not mean that a convergence has been arrived at between the U.S. and the Indian perceptions on the Afghan issue. For instance, India is opposed to Pakistan serving as a conduit for U.S. arms supplies to the Afghan mujahidin because some of these lethal weapons meant for the mujahidin get diverted for spreading terrorism in India, especially in India's border state of Punjab.

So far U.S. arms aid to Pakistan was being stepped up on the plea that Pakistan was facing the Soviet troops in Afghanistan as a frontline state. But now, as the Soviet troops are preparing to withdraw from Afghanistan, Carlucci has come out with the plea of long term U.S.-Pak interest, as he put it, to justify the supply of 11 more F-16 fighters for $256 million and 200 Sparrow and 360 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles for $86 million, as a part of a $4.2 billion U.S. aid package.

Washington has also announced that irrespective of the outcome of Pakistan-Afghan proximity talks in Geneva under the UN aegis to work out the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, it would improve both the quantity and quality of arms supplies to the Afghan mujahidin.

To top it all, Carlucci claimed that this would not increase tension in the region. India has rejected this contention. In fact, India's concern over the U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan was conveyed to Carlucci when he called on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 5 April.

Perhaps to assuage India's ruffled feelings over supplies of U.S. arms to Pakistan, Carlucci offered to extend Indo-U.S. defense cooperation to, what he called, additional areas. This means enlargement of the scope of bilateral ties in the field of defense, which are currently

transfer of technology and sale of some sophisticated items like the ring laser gyros for India's light combat aircraft now under development.

This clearly means that while Pakistan will continue to get increased and improved supplies of U.S. arms as a part of the U.S. $4.2 billion aid package despite Pakistan's near nuclear weapons capability, India will have to rest content with transfer of technology and U.S. cooperation in additional areas against payment.

Reports about Carlucci's 3-day visit to Pakistan starting on 6 April indicate that the focus was on increased U.S. arms aid and how best to bolster the mujahidin in the wake of the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The role of Pakistan in fulfilling the U.S. commitments in West Asia, especially in the Gulf and the supply of Chinese missiles to Saudi Arabia, came up for deliberation.

This shows that despite Carlucci's claim about the productive nature of his talks, India will have to remain on guard as the tensions in the region are likely to accelerate than abate.

The fact that Defense Secretary Carlucci's visit was the second of this kind in the last 40 years and so close to his predecessor, Weinberger's visit indicates that Washington desires accommodation with India, of course without diluting its arms supplies to Pakistan.

This may appear contradictory. But Carlucci has tried to reconcile the contradiction. India, on its part, has gone more than half the way toward an accommodation. Greater responsibility now rests with the Reagan administration, particularly in persuading Pakistan to do without more U.S. arms aid.

Carlucci's deliberations in India and Pakistan have yielded different results. And there is little hope of regional conflicts getting resolved. But each of these countries has acquired a better understanding, if not a better appreciation of the U.S. powers, especially in regard to the south and southwest regions.

Bomb Blast Outside Kodaikanal TV Center Kills 1

BK120554 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi
0530 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] A powerful bomb exploded outside the Kodaikanal television relay center in Madurai last night, killing one person and seriously injuring another.

The police believe the blast was caused by the Sri Lankan Tamil militants. The police have arrested one suspected person from the site of the explosion.

Madras Atomic Station Reopens After 4 Months

BK120326 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] The 235-megwatt second unit of the Madras atomic power station at Kalpakkam has been synchronized with the Tamil Nadu grid after a 4-month shutdown. The unit was closed for inspection of the underground tunnel bringing the sea water to the cooling system and also for correcting vibration problems.

Navy To Use Soviet Aircraft for Reconnaissance

BK080334 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] The Indian Navy is to receive a qualitative boost in its maritime reconnaissance capability with the induction of a Soviet-made TU-142 M aircraft. The aircraft will be inducted in the service formally by the defense minister, Mr Pant, on the 16th of this month at (Hansa) in Goa.

The third of the indigenously designed and built Godavari class guided missile frigates "Gomti" will also be commissioned in Bombay by Mr Pant on the same day.

Congress-I Workers Arrested in Calcutta Bombing

BK081656 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] In Calcutta, 12 Congress-I workers, including 5 corporation councillors, were arrested today on alleged charge of throwing bombs inside the assembly. The incident occurred when a group of Congress-I workers tried to enter the assembly defying prohibitory orders. When police chased them, they threw a number of powerful bombs, some of them inside the assembly premises.

The speaker of the assembly, Mr Hashim Abdul Halim, condemned the incident and described it as unprecedented in the history of the parliament democracy.

The leader of the Congress-I legislature party, Mr Abdus Sattar, has denied the involvement of any party worker in today's incident.

In a statement, the pradesh [state] Congress-I president, Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, has condemned the incident and demanded an inquiry.

3,000 Sikhs Leave for Pakistan on Pilgrimage

BK080908 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] A group of 3,000 people today left Amritsar for a pilgrimage of Sikh shrines in Pakistan. Led by the Unified Akali Dal member of Parliament, Mr Charanjit Singh Walia, the pilgrims will visit Nankana Saheb, Panja Saheb, and Dera Saheb gurdwaras [Sikh temples] before returning to Amritsar on the 17th of this month.

Spokesman 'Surprised' at Sri Lankan Statement

BK080314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] An official spokesman in New Delhi yesterday expressed surprise over the unilateral issue of a press release by the Sri Lankan High Commission on purely informal exchanges that took place on Wednesday [6 April] between the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and Mr R. Premadasa.

He said since this was a private courtesy call, the Government of India did not issue any press release on it. The spokesman said Mr Premadasa was in India on a private visit and had been extended courtesies due to a leader from a friendly country.

He said Mr Gandhi has been quoted selectively out of text and inaccurately in the press release, especially on issues pertaining to the ethnic violence in the Eastern Province and on the strength of the peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka.

Our correspondent understands the prime minister did not mention any figure regarding the strength of the peacekeeping force during the informal exchanges.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Announces New Operation

LD120720 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Tuesday deplored Iraq's massacre of Iraqi Kurds in northeastern Iraq March 18.

Speaking in the open session of the Majlis, the first at the end of the new year's annual holidays, he said that Muslim combatants of Iran have just launched new operations in the Iraqi territory (near Panjwin) and that they are giving Saddam Husayn "a due response."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani lauded the masses for their full participation last Friday in the nation-wide Majlis elections, and said the enthusiastic public response to the elections is evidence of the people's full faith in the Islamic revolution.

'New Thrust' on Western Front

LD120600 Tehran IRNA in English 0559 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants launched a new thrust into the Iraqi territory on the Western front Monday night. Look out for IRNA's reports of the operations in just a few minutes.

'Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5' Launched

LD120642 Tehran IRNA in English 0638 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5 Operational Theater, April 12, IRNA—The Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army thrust into Iraqi territory near Panjwin Monday night and captured several square kilometers of border highlands and summits. The operations were code-named "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operations.

The Iraqi troops sustained hundreds of casualties while tens of them were taken prisoner. They also lost scores of tanks and howitzers.

235 Iraqis Taken Prisoner

LD120706 Tehran IRNA in English 0658 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Bayt ol-Moqaddas 5 Operational Region, April 12, IRNA—At least 235 Iraqi mercenaries were captured in fighting with the Iranian troops near Panjwin Monday night and early Tuesday morning.

Among them are First Lieutenant Talal Yunis, Second Lieutenant 'Abd al-Hamza Hani Javad, Warrant Officers Ahmad Husayn Jassim and Adil Muhsin Nader, and Hasan 'Abdullah Salih, and Second Sergeant 'Abd al-Khaliq 'Abd al-'Amir. The POW's will be gradually sent to prisoners' camps. Many more are now being counted.

2000 Iraqis Killed

LD120736 Tehran IRNA in English 0733 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5 Operational Region, April 12, IRNA—Six strategic heights and tens of kms. of border strip near Panjwin were in "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operations Monday night. The strategically important heights of 1680, 1823, 1470, 1540, 1560, and 1830 have reportedly been captured by the Iranian Army.

The Iranian troops having full control over the "Nal Pari" passage have a firm foothold in the this region.

In these operations launched in the northwestern war fronts Monday night Brigade 424 of Division 27 of Iraq was destroyed by 50 percent, Brigade 96 of Division 27 by 50 percent, Battalions 1, 2 and 3 of Brigade 806 of Division 27 by more than 80 percent and Battalions 1 and 3 of Infantry Brigade 36 of Division 2 by 70 percent.

More than 2,000 Iraqis were killed or wounded and 235 have been captured. 45 tanks and personnel carriers, 1000 vehicles, 10 pieces of artillery and several munitions depot of the enemy were set on fire and destroyed.

The Iranian forces also seized intact several 14.5-mm and 23-mm anti-aircraft guns and a large haul of light weapons.

2 More Villages 'Liberated'

LD120926 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0909 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpt] Heroic and patient ummah of Iran, please pay attention: According to a report sent to us from the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operational theater a few moments ago, with the continuation of advances by the fighters of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the defeated Iraqi forces' retreat, the villages of (Susmankureh) and (Susmankishuk), situated in the general Panjwin area inside Iraq, were liberated.

The same report says that with the arrival of the victorious forces of Islam in the Panjwin area, the Al-Hareseh tank battalion of the 27th Division of Iraq was completely surrounded on all sides. A fierce battle is raging in Panjwin field in which your sons have the upper hand. [passage omitted]

Tank Battalion Destroyed

LD121032 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1001 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O dear compatriots, according to a report dispatched by correspondents of the Central News Unit and IRNA from the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operational theater, the Al-Harithah tank battalion of the Iraqi 27th Division, which was encircled by Islam's army in the Panjwin area, has been completely destroyed.

According to this report, more than 40 Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers were either set ablaze or destroyed, and more Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded and a number of them were taken prisoner by the fighters of Islam. The region is covered with the smoke rising from destruction of the enemy units and the defeated enemy is retreating from the area in disgrace.

Panjwin Area 'Liberated'

LD121036 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5 Operational Theater, April 12, IRNA—More than 35 square kms. of Panjwin region was liberated by Iranian Muslim forces in the course of "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operations, launched Monday night. The Muslim combatants have now entered Panjwin plain and are avancing towards predetermined targets.

Iraq Drops Chemical Bombs

LD120903 Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5 Operational Theater, April 12, IRNA—Iraq dropped chemical bombs in "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operational theater today as its forces were losing ground to Iranian combatants in the northwestern fronts. Iranian combatants immediately used protective devices, though many were injured.

Planes Bomb Iraqi Positions

LD120955 Tehran IRNA in English 0951 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Iranian jets heavily pounded Iraqi troop concentration sites and strongholds in "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operational theater, northwestern fronts, in 25 sorties today.

According to the Joint staff Command of the Armed Forces all Iranian planes returned safely to bases after their successful missions which were carried out from 05:30 to 10:57 hours local time (02:00 to 07:27 GMT).

Further Reports, Comments on Hijacking

Mohtashemi Linked to Hijacking

NC121224 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] The Kuwaiti AL-QABAS newspaper disclosed today that instructions to hijack the [Kuwaiti Airways] plane came from Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

It added that the instructions have been carried out by the so-called Islamic Jihad Organization. The paper pointed out that the hijackers were trained at the Montazeri camp in northern Tehran.

UK Praises Handling

LD121021 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] London, April 12, IRNA—The Islamic Republic has been warmly applauded by the British Government, politicians, released hostages and sections of the media about its firm handling of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner that was initially taken to Mashhad on April 5.

The latest appreciation came Monday from Social Democrat leader Dr David Owen and THE SCOTSMAN daily newspaper. Both believed Iran had shown a tough attitude in its treatement of the terrorist incident.

Dr Owen, who was foreign secretary for the last Labour government, said that Iran realised that no one was isolated by the threat posed by international terrorism and ruled out malicious insinuations by some of the press alleging tehran's complicity in the affair.

Britain's released 22 hostages have also shown their gratitude to Iran for gaining their freedom and some of them have spoken out against new fabrications that Iran allowed further hijackers on board while the plane was on the ground in Mashhad.

Both of B.B.C. and Independent Television's T.V.-A.M. were strongly rebuffed in trying to develop this claim Monday, with freed Briton Bert Watson saying that he saw "no increase" in the number of hijackers and Sue Silcock pointing out that some had been "upstairs" in the first class compartment.

Larijani on Storming Plane

LD121322 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1240 GMT 12 Apr 88

[By PA lobby correspondent Michael Prescott]

[Text] Iran offered to storm the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner while it stood on Iranian soil, a leading member of the Tehran regime said today. Iranian Foreign Minister [title as received] Dr Javad Larijani told a press conference held at his nation's embassy in London that Kuwait turned down the offer. Iran was then left no alternative but to refuel the aircraft and allow it to leave Mashhad airport.

Dr Larijani denied that Iran was in touch with the hijackers and denied that any extra hijackers were allowed on to the plane while it stood in Iran.

He told reporters that his message to the hijackers was: "Please, be concerned about the innocent people.

"Hijacking innocent people is wrong. These people should be released immediately. This is not a noble deed for a noble cause at all."

Dr Larijani was asked why Iran had not stormed the hijacked airliner.

He replied: "Specifically, the government of Kuwait rejected that offer."

Asked whether an offer to storm the airliner was made, Dr Larijani confirmed: "Yes. They (Kuwait) rejected it, saying they are not going to take responsibility for the outcome of that operation."

Asked what alternative advice Kuwait gave, Dr Larijani replied: "I should say: nothing.

"And we were afraid that the aeroplane would be blown up so we were forced to refuel it.

"It was against our wish. But this was the only thing we could do."

He dismissed as "baseless" a suggestion that his regime was in touch with the hijackers or had allowed some of them to board the plane.

Dr Larijani said: "We think hostage taking is a wrong action. Any action which puts at threat the security and safety of innocent people is wrong. We hope this will end as soon as possible, with minimum threat to the people on board."

He indicated that Iran's stand was so tough that the Tehran government believed Kuwait should not release the 17 prisoners whose freedom is demanded by the hijackers.

"We do not have any way to interfere with matters of internal importance in Kuwait. But we think we should not show that hostage-taking is a successful enterprise," he said.

The hijacked airliner would not be welcome back in Iran. "All the airports will be closed," he said.

Asked if Iran would see the hijacked plane crash from lack of fuel rather than grant landing rights, Dr Larijani replied: "We think it's for the people in Cyprus to decide. Iran will be closed to all hijacked aeroplanes forever."

He said that those responsible for a past hijack which ended on Iranian soil had been jailed and remained in prison.

Dr Larijani took a side-swipe at Palestinain Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for seeking to suggest an Iranian link with the hijackers.

Responding to mention of Mr 'Arafat's suggestions, He said: "I think any attempt for the release of the hostages in this case should be based on humanitarian reasons and not political ambitions.

"My advice to Mr 'Arafat is not to exploit this for political ambition. The lives of innocent people are at stake." Dr Larijani was critical of Kuwait's handling of the crisis. He said: "I would say they should show more seriousness in their negotiations over the hostages."

His advice was that "through negotiation, we should get their (the hijackers') tempers down and then get the release of the hostages."

However, he said Iran's only involvement was in "praying to the Almighty to get their (the hostages') release."

Dr Larijani was returning to Iran tonight. He stopped off in Britain after attending United Nations negotiations aimed at securing peace in the Iran-Iraq war. He said

prospects for these talks were good if Iraq was prepared not to use a deal merely as "an escape route" from guilt. Dr Larijani denounced Iraq, claiming it was using chemical weapons in the war.

Backing of Hijacking Denied

LD121550 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] London, April 12, IRNA—The Kuwaiti Government rejected an Iranian plan to storm the hijacked Kuwaiti passenger plane at Mashhad Airport, where it had first landed in northeastern Iran last week, a senior Iranian official disclosed, here today. The official reiterated Iran's condemnation of hijackings and denied allegations of Iranian support for it.

"I think the allegations are baseless," said Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani, who was talking at a press conference on growing allegations about Iran's involvement in the hijacking of the Kuwaiti aircraft.

"The position of Iran is very straightforward, very explicit, very solid," he added. "These contemplations are not coming from a sincere mind."

Larijani was responding to allegations in the Western media that Iran had aided the hijackers while they were at Mashhad Airport.

Asked why Iran did not storm the hijacked plane as it did so successfully in the December 1984 hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner to Tehran, the Iranian official said the Kuwaiti authorities had rejected the idea.

"The Government of Kuwait rejected that offer. They said they are not going to take responsibility for the outcome of that operations," said Larijani.

Larijani criticised the way Kuwait, which had an official delegation present in Mashhad, had handled the situation. "We think the government of Kuwait was not as cooperative as it should be," he said.

"We think the position in front of the hostage-takers should be very firm, but in any hostage case we should negotiate and gradually put the thing down.

"I think what happened in Cyprus was very regretful because we see at least the lives of the two people have been lost. Through negotiation we should bring tempers down. I think this seriousness has not been shown enough," he noted.

Larijani, who was speaking to reporters at the Iranian Embassy in London where he arrived this morning from New York, also denied that those responsible for previous hijackings to Tehran had been released from Iranian jails.

Asked what would Iran's message be to the hijackers, the deputy foreign minister said: "Please be concerned about the innocent people. Hijacking, taking of hostages is wrong. These innocent people should be freed immediately. This is not a noble deed for a noble cause at all."

On whether Iran would allow the hijackers to land the aircraft in Iran again, the deputy foreign minister stressed "Never." "Iran will be closed to all hijacked planes forever."

He called on all sides concerned not to politicise the issue and concentrate their efforts on trying to gain the safe release of the remaining 44 hostages on board the Kuwaiti airliner at Larnaca Airport.

Specifically, Larijani called on the Palestine Liberation Organization Chief Yasir 'Arafat not [to] "pursue political ambitions" by suggesting that the hijackers were receiving order from Iran.

He said Iran was willing to give all the help it could to end the hijacking, but that so far no country had asked for it.

3 Hijackers Boarded at Mashhad

NC111054 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1050 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text]The Kuwaiti newspaper Al-ANBA' has reported that three of the seven hijackers of the Kuwaiti plane boarded at Mashhad airport.

Larijani News Conference at Istanbul Stopover

NC120822 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 5 Apr 88 p 10

[Text] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Larijani has said, "We shall occupy Kirkuk if this is required for Iran's defense." Larijani was speaking at a news conference he held at Ataturk Airport in Istanbul during a stopover while enroute to the United States.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Larijani held a news conference at Ataturk Airport in Istanbul yesterday while flying to the United States to meet UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Sweet pastry was served during the news conference.

Larijani said: "Everything is nice in Turkey. But Iraq has committed serious crimes in Iran. The large-scale massacres Iraq has committed against residential areas has opened a new era in the region. The United Nations and the UN Security Council must stop this massacre immediately. I am flying to the United States at UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's invitation. I shall explain the attacks and the massacres. We shall discuss the way of setting up equitable peace in the region. The Iraqi regime has resorted to criminal acts. It must be forced to account for what it has done. Iraq does not want peace whereas Iran will always support peace in the region."

Replying to a question as to whether or not Iran will also use chemical weapons, Larijani said:

"Iran's military might is superior. We can break through the Iraqi defense lines whenever we wish. Iran does not need criminal arms to defend itself in the war. The use of chemical arms for defense is a crime."

Recalling that Iraqi aircraft bombed Tabriz and Esfahan 2 days ago, Larijani said that 10 people died and another 100 individuals were injured as a result of the air attacks.

He asserted: "Iraq also dropped chemical bombs on Al-Karrabah, an Iraqi town. One hundred individuals died as a result of the attack. We shall make Iraq regret these crimes. Chemical weapons are a threat to all countries in the world."

Asked whether Iran will win the war, Larijani said:

"God has given Iran enough land and resources. We do not covet the lands of our neighbors. Saddam Husayn said 'I can occupy Khuzestan in 1 month.' He failed to do so. He captured Khorramshahr, but was forced to abandon it after 6 months, leaving behind 30,000 troops. We have captured more than 100 Iraqi officers and 5,000 troops. In view of this, Iran is the victorious country."

Khomeyni Receives Air Force Pilots 11 Apr
LD111705 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, received kins of the martyrs, disabled, POW's and those missing in action from various cities, as well as a group of Air Force personnel at Jamaran Mosque here Monday.

The Air Force personnel calling on Imam Khomeyni included the daring pilots, who last Thursday heavily bombed Baghdad's economic and military centers, as well as the technicians who designed and manufactured "Parasto", Iran's first-ever light transport plane.

The gathering was addressed by head of the Shahid (Martyr) Foundation Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi who lauded the Iranian Muslim people for their massive turn-out Friday for the third Majlis (parliament) polls, despite threats and intimidation of global arrogance and its mercenary, the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

Karrubi said that Iran's Muslim people once again displayed their firm determination to defend the Islamic Revolution.

At the end of the meeting, the founder of the Islamic Republic responded to the enthusiasm of the visitors.

Khomeyni on Duty To Demonstrate During Hajj
LD111119 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Our correspondent reports that Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Karrubi, the imam's representative and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, together with Mr Khatami, the minister of Islamic guidance; Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Emam Jamarani, the supervisor of the Hajj, Awqaf, and Charities organization; and Mr Rezai'e, the supervisor of Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, were received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

The imam of the ummah said: God willing, this year 150,000 pilgrims will participate in the pilgrimage, and the pilgrims will do their duty which is to disown the infidels, the United States, and Israel. It is not possible for our pilgrims to take part in the pilgrimage and not demonstrate against world arrogance. Basically, disowning the infidels is one of the political duties of pilgrims; without it hajj would not be hajj. The Al Sa'ud should realize that if they act otherwise, they will be facing all the world's Muslims, and if they act correctly and properly it will be in their own interests. [passage omitted]

Karrubi Sends Hajj Delegation to Saudi Arabia
LD101540 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT .10 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—An Iranian delegation will be sent to Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] this week, to prepare the preliminaries of this year's hajj ceremonies, announced head of Iranian Hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi in an interview with the "KEYHAN" daily published Sunday.

Karrubi stressed that this year's hajj ceremonies will be performed more splendidly than those of last year. The Islamic Republic is not bound by the Hijaz rulers' statements calling for decrease in the number of hajj pilgrims, ban on political topics and staging of rallies by pilgrims, the daily quoted Karrubi.

Iran will send some 150,000 pilgrims to Mecca for this year's hajj, he said. [passage omitted]

New Foreign Ministry Appointments Announced
LD102141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the public relations office of our country's Foreign Ministry has announced: According to the new structure of this ministry which was announced today, deputyships have been created in connection with the world's geographical divisions including:

Brother Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy in charge of African and Arab countries; Brother Javad Mansuri, deputy in charge of Asia and Australasia; and Brother Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy in charge of Europe and the Americas. These divisions have been further divided into 18 offices according to the countries.

New Departments, Deputies

LD112116 Tehran IRNA in English 1837 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati announced the Foreign Ministry's new organizational set-up to heads of the foreign diplomatic corps here Sunday.

Previously Foreign Ministry activities were divided into three sections, namely political, economic and cultural while the new organizational chart has taken geographical divisions into consideration, Besharati said.

He said world countries have been broadly classified into 3 major geographical divisions headed by a deputy minister, followed by 9 sub-divisions headed by director-generals. Besharati listed deputies and director general of the Foreign Ministry as follows:

Deputy for International Affairs: Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani

Deputy for Afro-Arab Affairs: Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam

Deputy for Asia-Oceania Affairs: Javad Mansuri

Deputy for Euro-American Affairs: Mohammad Javad Larijani

Deputy for Legal, Consular and Majlis (Parliament) affairs: Mujtaba Mir Mehdi

Deputy for Administrative and Financial Affairs: Gholam 'Ali Sanati

Director General for Public Relations Office and Ministry spokesman: Morteza Saramadi

Director-General for Ministerial Affairs: Ja'far Shamsian

Director-General for Evaluation, Investigation and Education: Abol Hasan Tabataba'i

Chief of the Bureau for Politico-International Studies 'Abbas Maleki

Dean of the International Relations College: Gholam 'Ali Khoshru

Chief of Protocol Department: Hoseyn Tajgardun

Director General for Persian Gulf Affairs: Hoseyn Sadeqi

Director General for Middle East and North Africa: Qasem Moheb 'Ali

Director General for (Sub-Sahara) African Affairs: Hamid Mo'ayeri

Director General for Southern Asia: Asghar Qureyshi

Director General for Far Asia: Jalal Sadatian

Director General for Western Asia: Ebrahim Rahim-Pur

Director General for America: Nasrollah Kazemi Kamyab

Director General for Western Europe: 'Ali Ahani

Director General for Eastern Europe: Mahmud Va'ezi

Director General for Political and International Affairs: Kya Tabataba'i

Director General for International Specialized Organisations: Mujtaba Arastu

Director General for International Conferences: Mahmud Jamali

Director General for Legal Affairs: Hoseyn Abdi Abiyaneh

Director General for Consular Affairs: Abdollah Zifan

Director General for Majlis (Parliament) Affairs: Akbar Aminian

Director General for Organisation and Budget: 'Ali Zali

Director General for Administrative Affairs: Mohammad 'Ali Mirkhani

Director General for Financial Affairs: Qasem Moradi

Director General for Inventory and Supplies: Abol Qasem Tabataba'i

Majid Takht Ravanchi was also appointed chief of the department for the United Nations and Non-Aligned Movement.

Besharati said new changes have been made in the ministry in light of experiences gained in the recent years.

Khamene'i Chairs War Support Council Meeting

LD120707 Tehran IRNA in English 0702 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—The War Support Council held a session here Monday morning chaired by president and head of the Supreme Defence Council 'Ali Khamene'i. The latest developments in the war fronts and war support activities were discussed during the session and appropriate decisions were made.

GDR's Honecker Invites Khamene'i To Visit

LD102015 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—Ambassador of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) Guenther Fritsch met presidential high adviser Mostafa Mir Salim here today and submitted a written invitation from President Erich Honecker soliciting Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i's participation in a conference on nuclear free regions, to be held in East Germany.

Mir Salim pointing to the significance of nuclear disarmament, said educating people on this grave issue should be a prime task of the conference. The issue of chemical warfare should also be paid proper attention, he stressed.

The Iraqi Ba'thist regime's deployment of chemical weapons in its war against Islamic Iran, which climaxed last month in its gruesome chemical attack on Halabjah is not something new, but has been going on for the last five years, said Mir Salim.

But unfortunately international circles have not yet seriously considered this grave issue, he added.

In response, the East German ambassador noted that his country's envoy to the Geneva disarmament conference had condemned the Iraqi deployment of internationally-banned substances, on behalf of all East European and socialist states, as "obvious breach of the 1925 U.N. protocol".

On the recently held parliamentary polls in the Islamic Republic, Fritsch said he was a witness to a massive turn-out by Iranian people from all walks of life for the third Majlis elections.

He added that in view of the war situation, he had thought of a possible postponement of the ballot, but was disproved.

"I was deeply impressed by the people's massive queing-up for casting votes," he concluded.

Musavi Visits Shahr-e Kord, Holds Meetings

Position on Chemical Weapons

LD110930 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Shahr-e Kord, Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Prov., April 11, IRNA—Prime Minister Musavi arrived here Monday in a routine visit and was welcomed by provincial officials and Imam Khomeyni's personal representative here Hojjat ol-Eslam Naseri Yazdi.

Asked to comment on how Iran anticipates to cope with Iraq's chemical warfare in the future, Musavi said that Iran can manufacture chemical weapons to retaliate chemical attacks but that it is against such practices, and will instead expose the ruling regime in Iraq to the world people as a counter-attack in the war.

Musavi later went to the city cemetery here and paid homage to the martyrs of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Addresses Army, IRGC Commanders

LD111604 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Shahr-e Kord, Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Prov., April 11, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said that victories of Muslim combatants in "Val-Fajr-10" and "Bayt al-Moqaddas-4" operations proved that the Islamic revolution of Iran can overcome the Iraqi Ba'thist forces despite all conspiracies engineered by big powers.

The prime minister, who was speaking to Army and IRGC commanders, lauded the sacrifice of the Muslim combatants in war fronts and described it as very important.

Premier Musavi also praised the role of tribesmen in safeguarding achievements of the Islamic revolution, and said that Iranian people decide their own fate.

Speaks of U.S. 'Plots'

LD111704 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Shahr-e Kord, Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Prov., April 11, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Monday that the world cannot force the Islamic Republic of Iran to compromise with the criminal Baghdad regime, the beastly nature of which has so far claimed many lives even in the Iraqi town of Halabjah.

The premier, referring to attempts of the superpowers and other big powers to force the Islamic Republic to accept the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, noted "these powers these powers [as received] are not seeking an end to the Iraqi-imposed war but rather are attempting to destroy the honor and dignity of Iran's Muslim people in the region."

Musavi, addressing a large group of local people in this central city, cited the military presence of the U.S. and other NATO members in the Persian Gulf as part of the all-out plots hatched by the global arrogance to uproot the Islamic revolution.

But, Musavi noted, Iran's strong presence and the Iranian people's firm resistance foiled all the plots and badly damaged Washington's prestige.

Prime Minister Musavi also refuted as "quite foundless" global arrogance claims that Iran was unable to achieve a military victory and said that Iran's Muslim combatants are now in full control of Iraq's Halabjah and Al-Faw, and are quite capable of defeating the enemy.

Returns to Tehran

LD120455 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, who had gone to Shahr-e Kord to attend the ceremonies in honor of martyrs of Qamar-e Bani Hashemi Brigade, which was active in the victorious "Val Fajr-10" operations, returned to Tehran this evening after attending a session of the province's administrative council to review problems in Chahar Mohal va Bakhtiari Province.

Defense Minister on Manufacture of Missiles

LD112024 Tehran IRNA in English 1849 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—The mass production of two types of long range missiles has made Iran quite capable of turning Baghdad into an inferno if the Ba'thist regime continues its criminal attacks on Iranian cities, warned the defence minister here Monday.

Brigadier-General Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali said that the two missiles with ranges of 130 kms and above are manufactured by Defence Industries Organization (DIO).

The general, referring to the great leap made by Iran's missile industries, disclosed that 80 percent of missiles so far fired at the Iraqi capital were manufactured by DIO.

He said that a variety of spare-parts for all types of planes, particularly jet-fighters is manufactured by DIO's aviation division and basic repair and maintenance is provided solely by Iranian experts.

Various types of light and heavy weapons including machine guns and mortar launchers and their ammunition rounds as well as major parts of artillery pieces and tanks are manufactured by the DIO.

The domestic manufacture of such weapons has not only cut Iran's dependence on foreign countries by 70 percent but has also saved the country dollars two billion [as received] annually over the past two years, he said.

Montazeri on 'Underestimating' Preaching

LD120429 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Qom, April 11, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri cautioned ulema here Monday against underestimating religious preachings from the pulpits.

The future leader of the Islamic revolution, addressing himself to ulema and all theological students, said they should not shirk from their real responsibility or think it to be a disdain to preach from the pulpits.

In a ceremony marking the annual closure of studies at the "Hauza Ilmiya" (theological school) on the eve of the fasting month of Ramadan, Ayatollah Montazeri said that although Iran is politically involved in various delicate world affairs and naturally political subjects must be dealt with from the pulpits. [sentence as received] Ulema ought to pay more attention to other subjects in addition to politics, he added.

"The world is now quite eager and ripe for Islamic propagation," said the ayatollah, adding the Islamic Republic is repeatedly urged by African and other countries to despatch ulema or groom local students.

"Unfortunately we cannot fully answer their needs because of shortage of forces and facilities," he added.

The revered ayatollah stressed that men of letters irrespective of their social standing, always display modesty and respect towards people.

36 Soviets Killed by Afghan Mujahidin

LD120731 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 12, IRNA—Afghan mujahidin attacked Soviet occupying forces 45 kms west of Farah Province last week. Eight tanks and personnel carriers and 36 Soviet soldiers were killed and 12 others wounded.

One Afghan officer and another soldier with their weapons surrendered to Afghan Muslim revolutionaries on April 4.

The Afghan Muslims also fought the occupying forces in Kang region and killed three government forces and nine others.

Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue

Iraqi Missiles Hit Marivan

LD111237 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—Several civilians were martyred and wounded and some houses and shops were damaged when Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in Marivan, northwestern Iran at 09:15 hours local time (05:45 GMT) Monday.

Iraqi warplanes also violated the airspace of the central city of Esfahan at noon today but were repelled by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire before carrying out any bombing mission.

Meanwhile, the number of people martyred in today's Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran and Esfahan rose to 20 until noon Monday.

2 Missiles Fired at Baghdad

LD111702 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] An IRGC Central Headquarters statement announced: Following the resumption of mischief by the criminal regime ruling over Baghdad in attacking residential areas of cities of our Islamic homeland, at 1835 two surface-to-surface missiles were fired at two important military centers in Baghdad by the missile units of the IRGC Air Force.

The warriors of the IRGC artillery units, following the resumption of attacks against residential areas by the Zionist Iraqi regime, started shelling the economic and military centers of the cities of Basra, Al-'Uzayr, Al-Qurnah, Al-'Amarah, Al-Sulaymaniyah, and Umm Qasr.

The IRGC has again warned the Baghdad rulers that the continuation of such mischief will result in more decisive and severe blows.

Iraqi Bombings Kill 5 Citizens

LD111726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The Zionist Iraqi regime, continuing its acts of mischief in attacking residential areas of our country, bombed Kamyaran as well as a village near Orumiyeh this afternoon.

As a result of this crime some 5 compatriots were martyred and seven others were wounded. A number of housing units were also damaged.

Communique No 3,169

LD111824 Tehran IRNA in English 1816 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—Iranian missile boats intercepted 16 cargo ships and oil tankers Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Monday.

The 3169th Joint Staff communique said the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday in support of the Navy ignoring four warnings from foreign warships.

At least 60 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements, a vehicle, a mortar launcher and a machine gun were destroyed in the northwestern sector by Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

An Iraqi patrol unit attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Yebis, southern fronts yesterday, sustained several casualties and was forced to flee when hit by Iranian artillery fire Sunday.

In the western fronts, Iranian artillery fire checked Iraqi logistical activities in Nahr 'Anbar and enemy engineering operations in Anjirah and Helaleh yesterday, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

Iranian gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western fronts Sunday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several emplacements of light and heavy guns, concluded the communique.

180 Iraqis Killed in Zardah

LD111940 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, April 11, IRNA—Two troop-cencentration centers and a military column of the Iraqi Ba'thist forces were destroyed in Kirkuk and Al-Sulaymaniyah Provinces (northeastern Iraq) by Iraqi mujahidin of Badr Division 9, over the past few days.

Ramadan Headquarters announcing the above today, said the infiltration operations were launched in retaliation for Baghdad's savage chemical attack on the Iranian liberated town of Halabjah last month, which martyred over 5,000 defenceless Iraqi Kurds and maimed 7,000 others.

It said, Iraqi Muslim combatants killed 180 Iraqi Ba'thist troops during the first hours fo the operations launched simultaneously in Zardah area of Al- Sulaymaniyah, and Segermeh [spelling as received] Heights and Hezar-Kani [spelling as received] region of Kirkuk.

Four newly-established bases of Iraqi Ba'thist forces were demolished in Hezar-Kani by the Muslim combatants, who set afire munitions depots and equipment of the enemy in both the theatres.

An Iraqi battalion which attempted to retake the liberated regions was trapped and besieged by the liberating forces, and lost over 500 of its troops. Bodies of several Ba'thist commanders are among corpses littering the battlefield.

Missiles Hit Tehran, Tabriz

LD121121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Today, the criminal Iraqi regime, which regards its continued existence as dependent on attacking the residential areas of our country and martyring women and children, in continuation of its atrocities carried out missile attacks on residential areas of Tabriz and Tehran. As a result of these attacks, a number of our compatriots were martyred or wounded and a number of residential houses and a sanitorium were damaged in Tabriz.

Planes Bomb Al-Sulaymaniyah

LD120821 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—IRAN's warplanes bombed the headquarters of the First Corps of Iraqi Ba'thist regime in Kani Mizan, Al-Sulaymaniyah Province at 06:50 and 07:00 hours local time (03:20 and 03:30 GMT).

Enemy vehicles, equipments and bunkers incurred heavy damage in the bombardment. All planes returned to bases safely.

Radar, Missile Sites Shelled

LD121056 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Naval units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) brought Iraqi Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah jetties under their accurate and heavy artillery fire today, destroying their radar and missile installations and a helicopter of the enemy.

Meanwhile, Iranian artillery fire heavily shelled Iraqi eco-military centers in Al-Sulaymaniyah, Basra, Al-'Amarah, Al-Zubayr and Al-Qurnah Monday night and Tuesday morning, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces and IRGC Central Headquarters announced that all the attacks were carried out in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on Iranian residential areas.

Nepal

Prime Minister Congratulates PRC's Li Peng

BK101504 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha has sent a message of congratulations to Mr Li Peng on his appointment as the prime minister of China.

In his message Prime Minister Shrestha has wished Mr Li Peng all success and expressed the confidence that the friendly relations existing between Nepal and China will be further strengthened [words indistinct].

Prime Minister Meets Sri Lankan Counterpart

BK080132 Hong Kong AFP in English 0051 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Kathmandu, April 7 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa met his Nepalese counterpart Marich Man Singh Shrestha here Thursday for talks on bilateral, regional and international issues, official sources said.

Mr. Premadasa briefed Mr. Shrestha on talks he held with officials in India, which he visited for two weeks before arriving here Thursday, the officials said.

The Sri Lankan premier, who met Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi Wednesday, later told journalists that he saw no end in sight to Sri Lanka's almost five-year-old Tamil separatist problem.

India and Sri Lanka signed a peace pact in July aimed at ending the ethnic conflict but it has been rejected by the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The LTTE is currently waging a bush war in Sri Lanka's east and north against some 52,000 Indian troops deployed in the island under the accord.

The two men also discussed issues likely to crop up at the fourth annual summit of the seven-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), due to be held in Colombo in November, the sources said.

Both premiers reportedly expressed their satisfaction with SAARC's role in promoting development and stability in the region. The body also includes Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and the Maldives.

The Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhaya Thursday said in a press statement that he hoped Mr. Premadasa's visit would help further develop the current friendship and understanding between the two countries.

Mr. Premadasa is here for a four-day visit, the first to Nepal by a Sri Lankan premier since the two countries established diplomatic relations.

Handling of 12 Mar Stadium Tragedy Criticized

BK080126 Hong Kong AFP in English 0054 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Kathmandu, April 7 (AFP)—Parliamentary opposition members, including two former premiers, Thursday criticised the government for its handling of the March 12 stampede at a football match here that left more than 70 people dead.

Opposition members of the national Panchayat (parliament) told a press conference here that the government of Premier Marich Man Singh Shrestha should accept responsibility for the tragedy, in which spectators stampeded when a hail-storm interrupted a soccer match at the national stadium.

The critics included former premiers Surya Bahadur Thapa and Lokendra Bahadur Chand.

The opposition members adopted a resolution urging the government to accept responsibility for the disaster rather than blaming it on nature.

Mr. Bahadur Chand said that the MP's might hold a street rally to press their demand.

Pakistan

Further Reportage on Ammunition Depot Incident

President Suggests 'Sabotage'

BK121241 Hong Kong AFP in English 1216 GMT 12 Apr 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, April 12 (AFP)—Suspicion, controversy and fear Tuesday surrounded the cause of the as yet unexplained explosion at a munitions depot near here which killed at least 100 people and left 1,100 injured.

Pakistan's President Ziaul Haq told a news conference Monday that he could not rule out the possibilty of sabotage.

He said security at such military installations was "200 percent," and described the blast as "an extraordinary accident."

An official inquiry into the explosion, which blasted a hail of rockets, shells and shrapnel into Islamabad and the adjacent city of Rawalpindi early Sunday, has been ordered but no results have as yet been made available.

The cause of the disaster is the dominant subject in the press, with many newspapers raising the possiblity of sabotage, as bomb disposal teams comb the two cities for unexploded munitions which remain a constant danger.

THE FRONTIER POST newspaper quoted one witness, named Salman Taseer, as saying that he had heard "a plane flying over the area just seconds before the explosion," and that the depot was used to store weapons for the mujahidin rebels fighting the pro-Soviet Afghan Government.

Several lorries with Kabul number plates were seen near the depot, other unconfirmed reports said.

Some diplomats here said U.S. Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and anti-tank weapons could have been stocked in the depot, raising the possibility that die-hard elements in Kabul's secret service KHAD, opposed to a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, had hit the munitions dump to make their point.

Many newspapers, including THE MUSLIM, NATION and FRONTIER POST also pointed an accusing finger at KHAD.

Pakistan officials have blamed KHAD agents for a series of bomb attacks which have killed more than 500 people in the past year.

KHAD, modelled on the Soviet Union's feared KGB, has infiltrated several thousand agents into Pakistan by passing them off as some of the three million Afghan refugees in the country, officials here have said. The Pakistan police have arrested several alleged agents, and one has been condemned to death for his part in a bomb attack.

The arrival of a U.S. bomb disposal unit from the Gulf Monday has only increased rumours and suspicions that U.S. weapons were stored in the depot.

The authorities have denied that weapons destined for the mujahidin were stored there and said the blast followed a fire started accidentally when munitions were being loaded and unloaded.

Press reports here Tuesday noted that the disaster followed the announcement in Geneva that a peace settlement providing for the withdrawal of the Soviet Union's 115,000 troops in Afghanistan would be signed this week.

Several opposition politicians have called for the government's resignation while the press has criticised it for continuing to use the colonial-era arms depot in what has become a residential area in Rawalpindi.

A group of 50 anti-government demonstrators were beaten and dispersed by police Monday while 15 were arrested, press reports said here.

The Interior Ministry fears further trouble at the victims' funerals and the police have been ordered to keep a close watch, reliable sources said.

The death toll in the blast could be much higher than the official figure of 100, THE MUSLIM newspaper said, adding that some 3,000 people were missing.

A spokesman for the Red Cross denied earlier reports that quoted it as saying that 1,000 people had died and 5,000 been injured.

Meanwhile, the death toll in a fire at an arms factory near Lahore Sunday has risen to 13 with seven people in critical condition, press reports said. An inquiry has also been ordered into that incident.

Bomb Disposal Work Continues

BK121616 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] In 2 days of operations, military engineers have so far cleared about 20,000 bombs, shells, and projectiles from the affected areas of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Day and night, 170 bomb disposal squads have been working to clear these objects from the affected areas. About 80 more squads will join this operation tomorrow to expedite the work.

The vice chief of the Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Baig, visited the affected areas today and lauded the work of the Pakistan Army soldiers and officers.

A survey has been launched to assess the loss of life and property in the Faizabad incident. An Interior Ministry spokesman said in Islamabad today that as soon as the survey has been completed, compensation will be given individually to the affected people. Compensation has been given to some families whose wage earners were killed in the incident.

Explosion at Saudi Airline Office in Karachi

BK110320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] A powerful bomb explosion ripped off a part of the Saudi Arabian airline's office in Karachi yesterday evening. Four persons were injured.